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CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.....	33
Leading Articles:—	
Mr. Chamberlain's Decision on Constitutional Reform	34
Local Self-Government and the Ignorance, Incompetence, and Dishonesty of the Community	34
British Trade and the Shipping Conference	35
The Expansion of Hongkong and the Water Supply	35
The Navy and the Defence of Hongkong	36
Flogging in Victoria Gaol	36
The Sanitary Board Papers	37
The Distress in Japan	37
The Government Printers and the Gaol Printing Office	37
Contempt of Court	37
Supreme Court	38
Murder of a Policeman	40
Serious Coolie Trouble at Amoy	40
Hongkong Legislative Council	41
The Constitution of the Legislative Council	42
The Displacement of British Goods	45
The Water Supply	46
Flogging in Victoria Gaol	48
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Limited	50
The Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Co., Limited	50
The Japan Tidal Wave Relief Fund	50
Correspondence	51
Rebellion in North Kiangsu	52
Quarantine in Manila	58
Hongkong and Port News	53
Commercial	53
Shipping	56

MARRIAGES.

At Vienna, on the 24th May, MATHILDE, elder daughter of Mr. H. ROSENZWEIG, of Shanghai, to ADOLF, only son of Jacques SCHWARZ, of Vienna.

On the 29th June, at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, M.A., Rector, E. FLINT KILBY, to ANNIE BRITTON, daughter of the late John McMeikan Shaw and sister of Mrs. P. E. Fred Stone, of Yokohama.

At Christ Church, Yokohama, on the 29th June, by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, M.A., DONALD FRASER, Inverness, to CHRISTINE MARIE DRUMMOND, of Yokohama.

On the 3rd instant, at Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., ALBERT, seventh son of the late W. R. NEWCOMB, of Stamford, Lincolnshire, to MARTHA ELLEN, youngest daughter of Joseph ELLIOTT, of Todber, Dorsetshire.

DEATHS.

SAMUEL ROSENFELD, of New York, aged 29 years, at Kobe, 2nd July, at 2.30 p.m.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 3rd July, 1896, CHARLES STEWART BROWN, late second Engineer of the steamer *Hachin*, aged 30 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 10th June arrived, per P. M. steamer *Peru*, on the 8th July (28 days); the English mail of the 12th June arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Ravenna*, on the 10th July (28 days); and the Canadian mail of the 22nd June arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of Japan*, on the 13th July (21 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The papers in connection with the Hongkong petition for constitutional reform have been published. The Secretary of State's decision is that two unofficial members shall be appointed to the Executive Council and that the Officer Commanding the Troops and one unofficial member shall be added to the Legislative Council.

Owing to the death of Mr. Enslie, British Consul at Kobe and Osaka, Mr. Playfair has been appointed to be Acting Consul in the place of Mr. Enslie, and Mr. Chalmers the Vice-Consul at that port.

A Chinese constable was fatally shot on the 12th July by an armed thief who was endeavouring to escape arrest. The outrage took place in broad daylight. The murderer has not been arrested.

H.M.S. *Redpole* was detained at Amoy for some days last week in consequence of the threatening attitude of a body of coolies, formerly in the employ of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, who had been replaced by others.

The case of Mr. Krause, the German instructor who was wounded by Chinese soldiers at Nanking, has been settled, we learn from the *N. C. Daily News*, by the payment of 25,000 marks and the cancelling of his agreement by the Chinese authorities.

Another public company enterprise is being promoted at Shanghai, namely, the Shanghai Oil Mill Co., Limited. It is believed that the increased cultivation of cotton will make cotton seed extremely plentiful, and from this the Company proposes to extract the oil.

It is stated that the plan for building the railroad from Peking to Hanchow has for the present fallen through, owing to the impossibility of raising the necessary capital from purely native sources, and the Peking Government being unwilling to accept foreign capital.

Cochin-China is agitating for political separation from Tonkin. The Governor-General has for some years past made Hanoi his principal residence and the headquarters of the Government, and to this the Saigon people object, especially as they have to contribute very largely to the expenses of Tonkin.

It is estimated that the Tientsin-Peking railway will be ready for traffic along the whole line by the beginning of March, 1897. Shares amounting to something like Tls. 400,000 are still wanting to complete the company, the money now being used to construct the railway having been borrowed from time to time from the Board of Revenue, at a nominal interest, the loan to be repaid in instalments within seven years after the railway shall have commenced working.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Kokumin* computes the casualties to life and property in the great tidal wave in Japan as follows, according to researches carried up to the 24th June:

	No. of persons killed.	No. of persons wounded.	No. of houses damaged.
Iwate	25,413	6,779	6,156
Miyagi	3,314	715	1,184
Aomori	346	243	484
	29,073	7,737	7,844

We (*N. C. Daily News*) have received news from trustworthy sources to the effect that the Miaotse aborigines of Szechuen have rebelled and that the insurrection is most serious. *Kolao Hui* secret society agents are accused of the mandarins of having stirred the Miaotse up and, further, that it is their intention to bring about the junction of these south-western rebels with the north-western, namely, the Mahommedans of Kansu. When the Imperial troops are thus fully occupied the *Kolao Hui* will rise in the Yangtze provinces.

Mr. R. Chatterton Wilcox, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, writes us as follows:—The Colonial Secretary has forwarded to this Chamber copy of a letter received from H.B.M.'s Consul at Ningpo announcing that from the 1st July quarantine has been imposed at that port on vessels arriving from Hongkong.

In consequence of representations made by H.B.M. Consul on the subject of the wholesale robberies perpetrated by the colony of thieves established at Pai-tang-kao, we (*Peking and Tientsin Times*) hear that H.E. the Viceroy has given orders for an officer with a posse of soldiers and runners to be placed in charge of matters at the anchorage in question.

The *Official Gazette* of Japan announces that her Majesty Queen Victoria has expressed, through Sir E. Satow, H.M.'s Minister to Tokyo, her great sympathy with H.M. the Emperor and his people in regard to the recent calamity in the north. The Ministers for Belgium and France have also notified the Japanese Foreign Office that they have received instructions from their respective Governments to convey expressions of the deepest sympathy from the King of Belgium and his Government and the President of the French Republic on account of the calamity.

The Shanghai Chamber of Commerce has addressed the Senior Consul begging that the representatives in China of the Treaty Powers will thoroughly protect foreign trade interests when making any new Customs tariff with the Chinese Government. The Chamber is of opinion that under certain conditions some increase in the duties would not be detrimental to foreign trade, but that if the increase of duties is conceded it ought to be on the distinct agreement that the import duty once paid, the goods would be freed from any further impost of likin or taxes of any nature, no matter to what part of the Empire they are sent.

It is reported from Peking that owing to the recent sudden rise of the Yuangting, Peiho, and other streams in that part of Chihli province, the plains bordering these rivers, with rich harvests of wheat ready for the sickle, have, in consequence, been submerged and large quantities of grain destroyed. A famine, although light in comparison to that of 1894-5, is therefore anticipated, unless outlets be found for the surplus water. This, continue our advice, the Chihli local authorities are already trying to do, and H.E. Wang, Viceroy of Chihli, has been advised to engage the services of some able European engineer to direct the necessary works.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The trouble about the inclusion of British property in the new French concession at Hankow has been solved by the Viceroy, by the advice of Mr. Moorhead, Commissioner of Customs, to whom great credit is due for the suggestion, making a great addition to the present British concession. This is now carried right back to the city wall, the other boundaries being the river on the east, the road bounding the Russian concession on the north, and the road bounding the Bund on the south. We understand that the matter is settled, and the necessary proclamations are already published. Chinese will do anything for which a precedent can be shown, and we trust that this precedent will be found of use in the agitation for the long-desired extension of the Anglo-American Settlement at Shanghai.—*N. C. Daily News*.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S DECISION ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

The papers in connection with the petition to the House of Commons praying for an amendment in the constitution of Hongkong have now been published. It will be seen that although the colony has not got all it asked for, it has nevertheless obtained a very material and valuable concession, namely, the appointment of two unofficial members to the Executive Council. The constitution of the Legislative Council remains practically the same as at present, with the exception that the General is to be appointed a member and that an additional unofficial member is also to be appointed, in order to leave the voting strength of the official and unofficial sides as it stands at present. The appointment of unofficial members to the Executive Council, it is fair to say, received the support of H.E. the Governor and also a half-hearted support from the present Colonial Secretary, but we may safely assume that no such concession would have been made had it not been for the strength of the agitation for extended political privileges on the part of the community. We cannot suppose, however, that the community will rest satisfied with the partial victory that has been achieved, and for which we are indebted principally to the untiring efforts of the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD. Notwithstanding the Secretary of State's statement that his decision is final the agitation for a fuller measure of local control over purely local affairs will be continued as time and circumstances seem to favour it, but, as it seems to us, it should now be directed rather to the establishment of a Municipal Council than to an enlargement of the unofficial element in the Legislative Council. From the tone of Lord RIPON's despatch it may be gathered that had a Municipal Council been asked for at first it would probably have been granted.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND THE IGNORANCE, INCOMPETENCE, AND DISHONESTY OF THE COMMUNITY.

The weakness of the case against granting the ratepayers of Hongkong control over their own local affairs appears so clearly in the arguments advanced against that course that an impartial judge would hardly think it necessary to call on the other side. We regret that owing to the length of the papers on this subject we are unable to reproduce them all, but those who are desirous of reading them will find them easily accessible. We have already given the despatches of the Governor, Lord RIPON, and Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. There remain the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART's elaborate memorandum and the communications of the Hon. J. J. KESWICK and the Hon. E. R. BELILIOS. The two last named appear to be satisfied that the community with whom they have been so long and honourably associated consists for the most part of a very undesirable class. Mr. KESWICK says that if the free election of unofficial members of Council were granted, the Legislative Council would certainly have from time to time "a most undesirable unofficial element who would not

command public confidence, and the most important interests in the colony would not be represented, possibly be signalled out for discriminate treatment." To hand the drainage, roads, wharves, harbour, Police, Treasury, Post Office, and Education over to an unofficial majority would, in Mr. KESWICK's opinion, give rise to evils that "would destroy all confidence in the administration of affairs and introduce the colony to the municipal experiences of New York and San Francisco." But why not the experiences of Shanghai, which is nearer at hand, of which Mr. KESWICK has had some personal experience, and where the community is of similar composition to that of Hongkong? "It is," the same gentleman goes on to say, "almost impossible to conceive a representative Government properly so-called put into operation in a peculiar place like Hongkong without the worst abuses cropping in."

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS adopts a similar line. In his brother merchants he sees so many JABEZ BALFOURS only waiting the opportunity to despoil the widow and orphan. He prefers to trust to officials of whose probity he need feel no doubt. "In England," he says, "the majority of the people are now thanking God that they possess, in the House of Lords, a check upon rash and excited legislation, and I think that in this colony we should not be impatient of what are not so much leading strings as safeguards for sound administration in a place where the vast bulk of the population consists of natives of the adjoining great semi-civilised and not too friendly Empire." But in England not even the warmest advocate of the maintenance of the House of Lords would argue that there should not also be a House of Commons. In Hongkong, however, Mr. BELILIOS would have only what he conceives answers the purpose of the House of Lords and would have nothing to do with commoners, on account of their supposed Jabez Balfourism.

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART does not indulge in such pointed innuendoes as to the honesty of the community as his unofficial supporters, but bases his argument principally on the assumption that the characteristics of the community, so far as public affairs are concerned, are ignorance and incapacity. He also beats the wind to a considerable extent in trying to prove that British subjects cannot be allowed to take part in the government of the colony without at the same time admitting the Chinese to equal political privileges, a point to which Mr. KESWICK also refers. On this point we can only say that no one would contend for a moment that the government of Hongkong should cease to be British, as it would if aliens were allowed to exercise a predominate voice in it. Within reasonable limits it is most desirable that the Chinese should have a consultative voice in matters peculiarly affecting themselves, and it is one of the defects of our system that they have no such voice. The Chinese, however, all but a very fractional part of them, are aliens, and whatever privileges may be accorded to them during their residence in this colony, the Government must remain British. The important question raised by the petition for constitutional reform was not, as Mr. STEWART LOCKHART assumes, whether the government should in effect be handed over to the Chinese, but whether, while remaining British, it should be carried on entirely by officials or partly under unofficial control. On that point Mr. STEWART LOCKHART's contention is that the

unofficials are, so far as public affairs are concerned, and particularly affairs affecting the Chinese, ignorant and incompetent. It is assumed, without any parade of modesty, that the officials are endowed with knowledge and ability.

Let us examine this claim. In another part of his memorandum, and when dealing with another and minor point, namely, the relative length of residence of officials and non-officials—Mr. STEWART LOCKHART enumerates the official members of Council. First we have "the Colonial Secretary, whom even the unofficial members regard as one of the best officers this colony ever possessed." That was written when Sir G. T. M. O'BRIEN was Colonial Secretary. That he was an excellent official we have no wish to dispute, but his residence in the colony was very brief, and he certainly could not claim to be possessed of any peculiar knowledge of Chinese, either as regards the people or the language. Next in order we have "the Attorney-General, whose work is of a technical nature and confined entirely to legal matters, which as a rule do not require local knowledge." Then comes the Registrar-General, namely, Mr. STEWART LOCKHART himself, "who is the officer entrusted with the administration of Chinese affairs and who requires a special knowledge of local affairs and requirements." The present holder of the post has been in the colony fifteen years and has held his present post for seven years. Next we have the Colonial Treasurer, Hon. N. G. MITCHELL-INNES, "who is entrusted with the collection of revenue, etc., and who has been in the colony thirteen years." Certain unfortunate circumstances happened to put that officer's capacity to the test of formal investigation and no one, we think, will contend that the result went to show that official capacity greatly transcends that of unofficials. As No. 5 on the list we have "the Director of Public Works, who has been in the colony seven years." We do not for a moment suppose that Mr. COOPER himself would claim any intimate acquaintance with Chinese affairs, and "the Harbour Master, who has been in the colony ten years," we should think would also put in a disclaimer. We have, then, six gentlemen enumerated as representing the Government, only two of whom, Mr. STEWART LOCKHART and Mr. MITCHELL-INNES, could lay any claim to have made a peculiar study of Chinese and their ways. While the gentlemen named may all be excellently qualified to carry on the routine work of their own departments, there would be no difficulty in finding six unofficials to whom the decision of any large question of general policy affecting the colony might more safely be confided.

In fact there is no good reason whatever why Hongkong should not be allowed to manage for itself its own local affairs, as other places under British rule do, nor do we despair of the efforts to bring that about being ultimately crowned with success. The success achieved by the present movement has been only a very partial one, but one success paves the way for another, and we must not be discouraged if we have to achieve our emancipation from the rule of the official by small instalments. In the meantime the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, who has borne the brunt of the battle so far, is to be congratulated on what he has accomplished. The victory obtained is partial as it is, is one of which any man might well feel proud.

BRITISH TRADE AND THE SHIPPING CONFERENCE.

The Committee appointed by H.E. the Governor, in response to an inquiry from the Secretary of State asking whether there had been any and what displacement of British goods in this market, are to be congratulated on the practical and business-like character of their report. The Committee consisted of two officials and two un-officials, namely, the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Hon. W. C. H. HASTINGS, Mr. N. J. EDE, and Mr. CHANTREY INCHBALD. It is found as a fact that the displacement of British goods has been going on steadily for some years, but that it has not been on a strikingly large scale nor have many great staples been seriously affected. The causes assigned for the displacement are (1) lower cost of production of rival foreign goods, (2) disinclination of British manufacturers to study taste of consumer, (3) the steadily falling value of silver since 1873, (4) lower freights outwards from foreign as compared with British ports, and (5) cheaper railway transit to foreign ports of shipment. The two last named causes apply more especially to metals and heavy goods, and No. 4, the Committee regret to say, is due to the action of the Shipping Conference (consisting chiefly of British steamship owners), which, while maintaining freights from British ports, carry cargo at a much lower rate from Continental and American ports, thus giving foreign manufactures a virtual subsidy in their competition with British products. The Committee suggest that this question is of such paramount importance to British trade that it might fittingly form the subject of a searching investigation on the part of the Home Government. We hope this suggestion will be acted upon and that some method will be adopted for rectifying the evil. We sympathise with shipowners in endeavouring to keep the rates of freight up to a paying standard and by agreement amongst themselves doing away with cut-throat competition; all that is right and proper; but it is quite a different thing when we find British shipowners discriminating against British trade and favouring the foreigner. If that is the price that has to be paid for the maintenance of the Conference, then the sooner the Conference is broken up the better. The Government could hardly take upon itself the regulation of rates of freight, but there may be other means by which the evil could be met, as for instance, by so amending the law relating to conspiracy as to bring the Conference within the legal meshes. It will be remembered that some years ago a shipowner not in the Conference sued the members of that body for damages sustained by reason of an alleged boycott placed upon one of his vessels, but the action failed, the law being on the side of the defendants. But the law might be altered in such a manner that the Conference should be unable to choke off free competition. That would bring the rates of freight down by the run, which is not altogether desirable, for, as Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND pointed out at the meeting of the P. & O. Company the other day, they are already very low; but if through the action of the Conference freights are kept lower for foreign goods than for British goods something must be done. It would probably be better for the

permanent interests of the members of the Conference that they should do that something themselves than that they should wait for legislation in the matter.

The evidence taken by the Hongkong Committee has not been published, for which there may be good reasons, but if it were accessible it would no doubt prove very interesting reading for the mercantile community. Referring to the trade in metals the Committee say:—"It may be objected that a portion of the evidence does not bear out the statement that deadweight cargo shipped direct from Great Britain arrives here at a disadvantage in freight compared with that shipped from Continental ports. The Committee were constrained, nevertheless, to accept the balance of evidence, which unmistakably points to the conclusion arrived at; and, to more clearly elucidate the point, some tabulated examples of actual shipments have been obtained." We should like to see those tabulated examples. The Committee also feel bound to record their conviction that several of the witnesses were indisposed to speak freely on this subject of the Shipping Conference. We reach solid ground, however, when we come to the question of freights from America. "In this connection the Committee wish to make special reference to the advantages conferred on American cotton piece goods in the China market by the rates of freight charged by the Conference steamers from New York to Hongkong and Shanghai, which average from 25/- to 30/- per ton as compared with 57/6 from London and Liverpool outwards. The same remarks apply to the shipment of machinery from the United States to China, the freight for which is about forty per cent. lower than that from British ports." It is rather curious, after reading this, to read that the United States Consul at Canton in an official report has been complaining of high freights from America. "If a similar rate of freight could be obtained for and with cargoes from the Atlantic ports of the United States to Eastern Asia, American commerce would be benefited," writes Consul SEYMOUR, "but, at present, and for many years past, all of the steamships laden with Asiatic cargoes for the Atlantic ports of the United States generally return to Asia with European cargoes; or, if any cargo via the Suez Canal comes from American Atlantic ports, it is subject to double freight—that is, from America to Europe and from Europe to Asia, with transshipment at some European port usually. It is high time for Americans to establish direct communication with the freights as low from New York to Asia as from Hongkong to America (25s. per ton) and as low as from Europe to Asiatic ports." This quotation is taken from a home paper and we have not had the opportunity of seeing the full report, but taking the quotation as it stands and comparing it with the report of the Hongkong Committee on the displacement of British goods, and also with the complaints of British manufacturers that have from time to time been published, we should say the worthy Consul is considerably at sea in his statements. We believe it to be the fact that, to say nothing of the rate on direct shipments, goods can be conveyed from New York to Liverpool, transhipped at that port into a steamer for China, and brought out to their destination at a total cost much below that which has to be paid on British goods carried in the same steamer from Liverpool. Small wonder that British trade should decay!

THE EXPANSION OF HONGKONG AND THE WATER SUPPLY.

The possibilities of the commercial expansion of Hongkong are practically unlimited, and with the prospective opening up of China, the construction of railways in the Empire, and the great augmentation in the volume of the foreign trade of that country, there is every reason to believe that the growth of the colony, remarkable as it has been in the past, will go on in the future at an increasing ratio. Those who look forward to seeing a million of inhabitants dwelling on our busy island, with a light railway or tramway running round the coast to enable the population to spread out eastward and westward and to the south, might not, if regard be had to the commercial prospect alone, be deemed unduly sanguine. But here the Director of Public Works steps in with a suggestion of smaller limitations necessitated by the inadequacy of the water supply. In his able report on the water supply of the city of Victoria the hon. gentleman examines the question not only with regard to the requirements of the present but also with regard to the requirements and possibilities of the future. He has a scheme in hand to bring the supply up to present requirements and a further scheme which will raise the supply to a sufficiency for a population of 266,000 persons, or the estimated population in 1910. But the actual population in that year will probably be far in excess of the estimate, and it seems likely, therefore, that the requirements will advance more rapidly than the supply. When the Taitam works were entered upon it was thought that with their completion the colony would have got over the water difficulty for a long time to come, but the population had so grown in the meantime that almost as soon as the new supply was available it was found to be insufficient. The Taitam project, as Mr. COOPER points out, was for the supply of water to 92,000 persons, but the works were not completed until 1889, by which time the population had increased to upwards of 170,000. So will it be with Mr. COOPER's project and his estimated population of 266,000. The hon. gentleman, however, sets limits to the growth of the city in the following terms:—"Though I have assumed that the rate of increase in the population of the city will be maintained for the next ten years at the rate of 5,000 persons per annum, I am of opinion that, considering the limited area of the city and its present overcrowded condition, such a rate of increase should not be permitted and is not likely to occur. In view of the recent improvements in Kowloon, it appears probable that the increase in the population of the colony will to a large extent be confined to that district, the water supply of which is entirely separate from that of the city of Victoria. Should such, however, not be the case, a material increase in the water supply derived from the Taitam Valley may be obtained by the construction of the reservoirs on sites Nos. 4 and 5 and the water pumped up to the existing reservoir. The catchment areas of these suggested reservoirs are 260 acres and 250 acres respectively, and on the basis of the supply from the other reservoirs they might be calculated to give a supply for 80,000 or 90,000 persons; adding this num-

ber to the 266,000 persons, the estimated population in 1910, we may take 350,000 as the extreme of the population that can be supplied with water under the present system and its proposed extensions. Before the population reaches that limit, however, it may be discovered that a good supply can be obtained from artesian wells, or, failing that, water might perhaps be brought from Kowloon in pipes laid across the bed of the harbour, a project to which it is said there are no insuperable engineering obstacles.

Under any circumstances, however, a rigid economy in the matter of water will have to be exercised in the city and there is little possibility of the successful establishment of manufactures on the island. That affords an additional reason for the moving back of the Kowloon frontier, so as to give us complete command of the range of hills there, with their valuable streams of water, which are believed to be sufficient for the supply of a large population, though their annual yield has never been scientifically measured. It seems probable, as Mr. COOPER suggests, that the prospective increase in the population of the colony will have to find accommodation to a great extent on the peninsula, and if the water supply derivable from the hills beyond our present frontier turns out as bounteous as is expected there seems no reason why, with the proposed extension of our territory, manufacturing enterprise should not take root there. In any case there is bound to be a large population there when the proposed Canton and Kowloon Railway is made. Possibly that project may not eventuate in the time of the present generation, but it is certain to do so sooner or later and it is therefore the duty of the Government to look ahead and make due provision for future developments. The most pressing requirement of the present day in regard to Kowloon, it may be mentioned in passing, is the provision of an adequate ferry service, a matter in which the Government might reasonably come to the aid of private enterprise by affording the proper wharfage accommodation. Great as we believe the future development of Kowloon is destined to be, however, we believe also that the principal business quarter of the colony will always remain on this side and that the population here would go on increasing almost indefinitely, provided it were not checked by any such circumstances as a scarcity of water or actual want of space. The latter difficulty does not strike us as being so serious as Mr. COOPER represents it. The present overcrowding will be considerably relieved when the Praya Reclamation is completed, and the provision of tramways will enable the population to spread east and west, where there is still a good deal of building ground available, as well as to the south of the island. During the last thirty years the shipping, which has justly been termed the life blood of the colony, has trebled, and the population has steadily advanced with it, though at a rather slower ratio. There is no reason to suppose that the next thirty years will not see a similar trebling of the present tonnage entering the port and a corresponding increase in the population, always supposing that water can be procured. It is in dealing with problems of this kind that we think the colony will experience the benefit of being represented on the Executive Council by practical business men, whose advice and vigorous insistence on what is necessary for the colony's progress and welfare will act as a wholesome tonic to our anæmic Government.

THE NAVY AND THE DEFENCE OF HONGKONG.

At the Royal United Service Institution, on the 5th June, Vice-Admiral P. H. COLOMB delivered a lecture on "The Functions of the Army and Navy in the Defence of the Empire," a subject of some practical importance for us in Hongkong, inasmuch as it involves the question of whether we are to rely upon the Navy or upon fortifications for our defence in time of war, or partly upon one and partly upon the other. If we are to rely upon the fortifications alone we are in sorry plight, the armament and the garrison being alike insufficient for the requirements. Admiral COLOMB's argument, however, is that owing to "the defending action of the Navy, expenditure on localized and fixed military defences, where there are no land frontiers, can be largely reduced with perfect safety; and that, if this is done, we can have a mobile military force sufficient for our Imperial needs without any great increase of cost." The gallant officer holds "that the Empire is not safe with only so small a military force ready to embark at short notice" as we have at present and he would therefore reduce the expenditure on fixed military defences and apply the money so saved to the increase of our mobile force. In the debate which followed Field Marshal Sir LINTON SIMMONS, a former Inspector-General of Fortifications, said:—"He remembered that in 1865 there was a great hubbub at the time Lord PALMERSTON was Premier. He started a commission with regard to the defence of our naval ports, on which a large sum was expended. He himself believed they were useful as they were, but he thought it very doubtful whether, if the Government had placed the question before a commission of the two services competent to deal with it, those port defences would ever have assumed the extent to which they were carried." The *Times* terms this a giving up of the case of the extreme advocates of fortifications. Some years ago the fortification school was in the ascendant and the principle as applied theoretically to Hongkong, though never completely carried out, was that the colony should be able to defend itself against a hostile attack without any assistance from the navy. At the present time the tendency of professional opinion seems to be in the opposite direction, Admiral COLOMB's views being those now more generally held, namely, that the principle to be followed should be, not to prepare to meet attacks on positions when made, but to prevent the enemy from contemplating such attacks, to convince him that he will not have time to complete an attack on any locality before the general defending force is upon him, to produce in his mind the conviction that if he cannot subdue by his concentrated mobile force the concentrated mobile force of his opponent, he can make no attacks at all, but such as are in the nature of surprises, and, therefore, on a very small scale. "But," the Admiral goes on to say, "in every port, island, or shore open to the enemy's attack the army must be able to warn him that he will be kept at bay until the defending naval force arrives. How the army can best do this is a separate question, to be more or less separately treated for each locality." We can only hope that this "separate question" will be treated, so far as Hongkong is concerned, on the lines of a large addition to our garrison and a material strengthening of our defences.

FLOGGING IN VICTORIA GAOL.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the question of flogging in Victoria Gaol have made their report and they find in effect that the death of the prisoner who died recently after a flogging was a pure accident, that the "flogging was not the *causa proxima*, but merely the *causa remota* of the death." There is nothing whatever in the report that suggests brutality or carelessness in the administration of punishment in the Gaol, and the Committee is strongly impressed with the necessity of preserving to the Superintendent the right of ordering corporal punishment for offences against discipline. They suggest, however, that the number of strokes administered at any one time should be fewer and the floggings more frequent. There is a little ambiguity about the latter part of the recommendation, but if the meaning is that the Superintendent and a Visiting Justice should have power, instead of ordering a flogging of thirty-six strokes (a number that in practice we believe is never given) should have power to order for one offence a succession of floggings to be administered at stated intervals, we think it is not one that should be adopted. Instead of having a reformatory or deterrent effect it would tend rather, as all refinements of cruelty do, to make those subjected to it desperate. It is true the Supreme Court in sentencing prisoners to be flogged may and usually does order two floggings, each of so many strokes, but whatever may be said of the merits or demerits of that system as a punishment for crimes of violence, it does not appear applicable to ordinary breaches of gaol discipline, in relation to which punishment will probably be effective in proportion as it is prompt and sharp. The Committee recommend that the birch should be substituted for the rattan, and that if the rattan is retained the maximum number of strokes to be inflicted at one time should not exceed twenty. On this point Dr. ATKINSON does not agree with the other members of the Committee, but would have the maximum number of strokes to be administered at any one time reduced to six, which is rather below the standard adopted in certain girls' boarding schools, according to interesting revelations made by Mr. LABOUCHERE in *Truth* some years ago. The lines of the criminal would apparently fall in pleasant places if Dr. ATKINSON had the direction of his treatment. Six strokes may be very well to commence with, but if they do not prove effective and the same man is repeatedly brought up for breaches of discipline it will be better to try him with twelve, and, if he still proves obdurate, with twenty, which is the number that Mr. Justice SERCOMBE SMITH and Hon. Commander HASTINGS think should be the maximum. Prisoner No. 704 died after a flogging of twelve strokes only, inflicted a week after a previous flogging of six strokes, but, as pointed out, death was not the direct result of the flogging, so that the case has little bearing on the question of what the maximum number of strokes should be. In fact, as the Committee say, "this case, being the first fatal case within

"living memory," and the death being due to secondary causes, "goes to establish the conclusion that flogging with the rattan is not a punishment peculiarly perilous in its infliction on Chinese." The inquiry of the Committee, while it failed to bring to light any abuses in relation to the administration of flogging, shows that the hospital accommodation in the Gaol is dangerously defective, and the Government should lose no time in acting upon the recommendations made on that point.

THE SANITARY BOARD PAPERS.

It is to be regretted that the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD's motion at the last meeting of the Legislative Council for the production of the papers with reference to the proposed reconstruction of the Sanitary Board was not adopted. In reply to the arguments advanced by the hon. gentleman it was stated that the question had been referred to the Secretary of State for final decision and that the Government did not intend to lay the papers on the table until that decision had been received, that a decision supposed at the time to be final had already been given, but that circumstances had since arisen that rendered another reference necessary, and that now the final decision must be awaited. After this extraordinary explanation the Hon. C. P. CHATER withdrew his support from the motion, and Mr. WHITEHEAD thereupon, seeing he could not carry his point, let it drop. In this case, therefore, it is possible we may have a repetition of what happened with regard to the papers in connection with the petition for a reform in the constitution of the Legislative Council. In August, 1894, Lord RIXON wrote a despatch, expressing certain liberal views with regard to granting local control of local affairs, and concluded by saying "Whether any scheme of the kind is feasible I would ask you carefully to consider at your leisure, and in the meantime you are at liberty, if you see occasion to do so, to give publicity to this despatch." Advantage was taken of the loophole afforded by the direction for publication not being absolutely definite and the papers were not published for two years afterwards. And from the form in which they are published it would appear that no correspondence on the subject had taken place between August, 1894, and May, 1896, when Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's final decision was sent out, although it is said that in the meantime a considerable number of despatches had passed. It will be readily understood that it must have been very disagreeable to the Government to have to publish the despatches at all, and especially disagreeable to the Colonial Secretary to have dragged into the light his memorandum characterising the community as ignorant and incompetent, but in view of Lord RIXON's expression of opinion the papers ought unquestionably to have been published in 1894, and when finally they were published, two years later, they ought equally unquestionably to have been complete. For ought we know they may be complete, for it is only a matter of hearsay that other despatches passed which have not been published, but it seems unreasonable to suppose that such an important question could have been left in a state of pendency for two years without something being said about it. However that may be, it would be decidedly more satisfactory if the Sanitary Board papers were now produced so that the community might have an opportunity of addressing the Secretary of State direct if it should be found

that any such mistaken impressions have been conveyed as in the case of the papers on the petition for constitutional reform. It may be that the further reference to the Secretary of State has been for the purpose of asking him to accede more to popular opinion than was conceded in his original decision, and if that be so we will be very glad to give the Government credit for the fact, but it seems a forlorn hope to expect concessions of any kind from our present Government except under the strongest pressure; and in any case it is desirable that there should be no concealment in the matter. If the last reference to the Secretary of State is in the nature of an application for a rehearing or reversal of judgment both parties to the dispute ought to have an opportunity of being heard.

THE DISTRESS IN JAPAN.

(8th July.)

We would direct attention to the letter of the Right Rev. Bishop BURDON, enclosing one from Bishop AWDRY, published in another column. The distress caused by the recent tidal wave in Japan is extreme, and doubtless there are many people in Hongkong who would wish to contribute to its relief. Bishop BURDON expresses himself ready to take charge of any subscriptions, but if his Lordship should wish to be relieved of the clerical work attaching to the office of treasurer of a public fund we have no doubt some gentleman in mercantile life would be found ready to take his place in that respect. If any fund is raised in Hongkong the best channel that could be found for its distribution would be the committee formed at Kobe. A public meeting was held at that port on the 25th June, when a representative committee was appointed (with additions made subsequently) of Mr. SIM, Mr. HAPPER, Rev. J. L. ATKINSON, Mr. LENG, Bishop AWDRY, Mr. VON KRENCKI, Mr. DE ATH, and Mr. C. P. HALL. At the date of our last advices from Kobe the subscriptions at that port amounted to \$4,000, and it was agreed by the committee to utilise \$1,000 at once in the purchase of tools, etc., as a beginning. In a few days Mr. SIM was to go north and personally distribute these among the people who are at present requiring only some such help as this to put them on their feet again and beyond the need of any further charity. He would then also, (we quote from the *Kobe Chronicle*) "have an opportunity of studying the further requirements of the situation, a necessary step for which his unique experiences make him specially qualified." At the public meeting at Kobe it was at first suggested that the funds raised at that port should be handed over to the Yokohama committee, it being thought, apparently, that it was unnecessary to have a committee at each port, but a proposition to that effect was not carried. This was fortunate, for it appears that the Yokohama community are giving their collections to the native authorities for distribution, and as the *Kobe Chronicle* points out, there are reasons, well known to Kobe residents of 1885 (Osaka flood) and 1891 (Gifu earthquake), why any unknown Japanese offering to take over the funds for distribution should be fully guaranteed. That is why we suggest that the funds raised in Hongkong should be forwarded to the Kobe committee for distribution, for that committee intends to carry out the work itself with Mr. SIM, well known to many in Hongkong, as its chief executive officer.

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTERS AND THE GAOL PRINTING OFFICE.

The Medical Officer of the Gaol in his annual report says:—"As I stated last year, 'the statistical tables could no longer be printed in the Gaol and I had to depend entirely on the Government printers. This year, as they had in hand many more important works, there was a greater delay in printing these tables, and for this reason I was unable to write this report sooner.' This is a matter that seems to call for some investigation. To pay the Government printers for printing Gaol forms, or any other Government work for which the Gaol establishment is sufficient, is a wanton throwing away of the ratepayers' money, and it seems also, from Dr. MARQUES's report, to produce delay in the public service. Formerly useful employment was given to a number of prisoners in printing forms and documents in which very fine work was not necessary, but some time ago instructions were given that all printing was to be sent to the Government printers and paid for. The Government printers, we believe, put in a claim that printing in the Gaol was an infringement of their monopoly. But when was this monopoly created and by what authority? If there is any legal contract in existence it presumably only runs from year to year and on renewal could be varied to meet the absurdity of sending work out of the Gaol, to be paid for, which could as well be done in the Gaol for nothing. When the Estimates for next year come on for consideration the unofficial members might usefully enquire into this matter and see whether the agreement with the Government printers is a fair and proper one, made in the public interest, or whether it is not governed by personal favouritism of the description which some parties express so much fear would prevail if the ratepayers were allowed to manage their own affairs.

CONTEMPT OF COURT.

In another column we report some remarks made by the Acting Puisne Judge in the Summary Court on the publication in our columns, before the case came on for hearing, of the pleadings in a suit brought against the members of the Sanitary Board. Such publication his Lordship holds to be contempt of Court. His Lordship is good enough to say, however, that he is satisfied no contempt was intended, and that we can confirm, so far as this journal is concerned. It is right that we should express our regret for any technical offence that we may inadvertently have committed, and we shall of course, in the future, consider ourselves bound by the ruling of the Court, though that ruling does not commend itself to us as being either good law or sound policy. None of the cases quoted by his Lordship are on all fours with the present one. If the petition had been published without the answer the strictures of the Court would have been well deserved, but the answer was given equal prominence with the petition. A public and semi-representative body is sued, in the names of its members, by a private individual for what is alleged to be a wrongful act, the subject being one in which the public is vitally interested. We fail to see in what way the administration of justice could conceivably be prejudiced by the publication of the pleadings, and if the state of the law be as the Acting Puisne Judge describes it, we can only say that in our judgment the law is opposed to

reason and public policy. It is a matter of Judges' law, a term used in contradistinction to statute or common law, and we would respectfully suggest to the Hongkong Judges that the case is worthy of reconsideration.

SUPREME COURT.

8th July.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING
PUISNÉ JUDGE.)

YEUNG SHIU KAM v. HON. F. A. COOPER
AND OTHERS.

Yeung Shiu Kam brought an action to recover \$250 damages from Hon. F. A. Cooper, Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Mr. H. B. H. Lethbridge, Dr. F. W. Clark, Mr. N. J. Ede, and Police Constable Rae.

Mr. J. Hastings (of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor) represented the defendants.

His Lordship—Before this case proceeds the Court is bound to take notice of the publication in the *Daily Press* of last Saturday of the pleadings in this case before the case came on for hearing. I believe that the pleadings also appeared in the *Telegraph*, but under what circumstances I am not aware—whether the *Telegraph* obtained them in the same way as the *Daily Press* obtained them, or whether the *Telegraph* simply cut them out of the *Daily Press*. The facts of the case as far as the *Daily Press* are concerned are as follows. I believe—I speak subject to correction—the representative of the *Daily Press* went to the office of the solicitors for the plaintiffs and obtained a copy of the pleadings—the petition and the answer—from the solicitor. After that the pleadings—the petition and answer—appeared in the morning paper. Now, I do not think that anybody in this Court has ever seen pleadings published in newspapers before the action comes on for hearing. I myself have never seen it, and I have spoken to the Chief Justice and he has never seen it or heard of it. On the face of it, therefore, some gross irregularity has occurred, and that irregularity means, in fact, a contempt of Court. The law on the subject will be found in the case of *In re Cheltenham and Swansea Railway Carriage and Wagon Company*, reported in Law Reports, Equity Cases, 1869, page 580. There a petition for winding up a company, containing charges of fraud against the directors, was published in *extenso* in a newspaper before the hearing of the petition. Held, that the publishers of the newspaper had committed a contempt of Court; and they were ordered to pay the costs of a motion to commit. This was a motion, on behalf of the company, to commit the printers and publishers of the *Bristol Daily Times and Mirror*, for printing and publishing the greater part of a petition presented to this Court for the winding up of the Company. The petition contained grave charges of fraud and misconduct against the directors, and was printed in *extenso* in the above-named newspaper on the 25th February, with the single exception of one paragraph, in which the number of shares held by the petitioner was stated. There were no comments in the newspaper respecting the petition, except a short preface stating the fact of its presentation to the Court. The Vice-Chancellor said:—"This is a motion on behalf of the directors of a company to commit the proprietors of a newspaper, for publishing in *extenso* a petition presented in this Court for the winding up of the company. The publication is introduced by a short statement under which the petition was presented; but for the present purposes I shall treat it as a simple publication of the petition unaccompanied by any comments. The petition itself contains grave and serious charges with reference to the conduct of the directors." I would point out again that the petition in this case—the true words of the petition did not bear the same meaning—contained serious charges with reference to the conduct of certain gentlemen.

"But the broad question is, whether it is allowable for the publishers of a newspaper to print proceedings pending in the Court before such proceedings have come on to be heard. The principle is equally applicable to any bill, or answer, or petition which may be filed in this Court, the statements therein contained being necessarily *ex parte*, and unaccompanied by any evidence or pleadings on the other side." Of course in this case the answer of the other side was given, but that answer was given without the permission of the other side. "But although every contributory or creditor is entitled to have a copy of the petition, it is not open to the public indiscriminately, who are strangers to the matter, nor is it the duty of the solicitor to furnish copies to all persons, whether strangers or not, who choose to apply and pay a certain fee; on the contrary, it is his duty to ascertain that the applicants are either creditors or contributories of the company. There is nothing in the Act or in the rules which sanctions the publication of a petition of this kind any more than a bill in Chancery. It is said there was no intention to prejudice the parties by this publication; but it is a sound rule that you can only judge of men's intentions by their acts. In this case I cannot infer that the publishers of the newspaper printed those charges of fraudulent conduct against the directors of the company unknowingly and unwittingly. They may be true or false; but that is a question which will have to be decided on the evidence. If you once permit such a publication as this, any person may file a petition in the Court in order that it may be published in a newspaper, and thus it would become the vehicle of grievous injury to individual character. I cannot accede to any arguments urged in excuse for such a course." I may say that in this case not only are these pleadings published, but there is a note to this effect—"The suit is a test case and is brought to try the right of the Sanitary Board to enter premises and pull down cocklofts without getting a Magistrate's order." Thus they practically take upon themselves the liberty of defining the issues in the matter. It is not for a public paper to do that. The principle laid down by Lord Hardwicke in *Roach v. Hall* (1) appears to me in every way applicable to the present case. It is in these words: "Nothing is more incumbent upon Courts of Justice than to preserve their proceedings from being misrepresented; nor is there anything of more pernicious consequence than to prejudice the minds of the public against persons concerned as parties in causes before the cause is finally heard." I wish to underline the word "finally." "It has always been my opinion, as well as the opinion of those who have sat here before me, that such a proceeding ought to be discountenanced. The passage was cited by Lord Hatherley, when Vice-Chancellor, in *Tichborne v. Mostyn* (2) and adopted by him as the rule of the Court. The case of *Daw v. Eley* (4) is scarcely applicable to the circumstances of the present case, although it illustrates the same principle. Now the general rule is here laid down. It is this: "It appears to me that whenever a newspaper, either on its own motion or at the instigation of others, publishes the proceedings in a cause before the hearing it tends to prejudice the minds of the public. The present case falls within the rule, and I must regard the publication of this petition as a contempt of Court." That was as far as the newspaper was concerned. Now as regards the solicitor engaged in the matter. There can be no doubt that the solicitor naturally wished his client to succeed, and in allowing these pleadings to go out of his office by handing them to the representative of a newspaper he must have known they were intended for publication; and if he had considered that the publication would have had no beneficial effect upon his client he certainly would not have allowed it to be published. Again, there was no consent of the other party asked for, so that renders the publication practically an *ex parte* act. When a petition of this kind charges the defendants with wanton and illegal conduct it is most irregular, and it is a contempt of Court for the solicitor in the case to engage in such a transaction. Now then, there is a case, reported in Law Reports, 7 Equity. There a solicitor wrote, under an assumed name, a letter, which was published in a newspaper, taking part in a

certain discussion. Held, that the solicitor had been guilty of contempt of Court in writing for publication letters tending to influence the result of the suit. That case was heard before Lord Romilly, Master of the Rolls. He said, "Then it is to be observed that this is written, not by a mere stranger, who might say that he really knew nothing at all about the cause, but it is written by the solicitor of the gentleman who is opposed to Mr. Daw in this suit. Surely that is a very strong feature in the case; he must wish that his client should succeed, and I venture to say there is no solicitor who would not in the same position feel the same thing, and it is impossible that a solicitor can safely act in a matter of this description in writing an article in a paper which, if believed, must have a beneficial effect upon his client, and afterwards say, 'I had no intention of that sort at all, however much I may wish for it.' It must be regarded as an endeavour to interfere with the due administration of justice. Where is the line to be drawn? It is highly important that the Court should not allow steps of this sort to be taken by the officers of the Court in causes in which they are engaged, which possibly may have an effect favourable to their client, or unfavourable to the other side; and I may further say that if I am to go minutely into every sentence of a letter which is written in a public newspaper, to say this is questionable, and that is doubtful, and the like, it is imposing a task and a duty upon the Court which it would be impossible to perform. There is a distinct line to be drawn, which is this—that gentlemen who are concerned for contending clients in this Court, whether solicitors or counsel, should abstain entirely from discussing the merits of those questions in public print; if they do it at all, they ought to put their names to their communications; but to let the public suppose that it is merely done by a person who takes a great interest in, and has a great knowledge of the subject, and discusses it from a public point of view, when, if the fact were known, he is the solicitor of the defendant, and has the strongest possible interest in his success, is, in my opinion, highly reprehensible." The spirit of that judgment distinctly applies to the present case. Nor does this case stand alone. In the case of *Tichborne v. Mostyn* the publication of affidavits filed on behalf of the plaintiffs was held to be contempt of Court. In the present case I do not believe that any contempt of Court was intended; but I feel strongly on the point and am bound to take notice of it. I am not alone in my opinion, as before taking any action I consulted the Chief Justice, and I hope the views I am expressing with regard to the newspaper and the solicitor will have the effect of preventing such an irregularity again. On the second occasion the Court will have to take serious notice of the matter.

Mr. Hastings—My Lord, as regards what has fallen from your Lordship I would point out to your Lordship that these pleadings which have been published are public documents.

His Lordship—The only thing the Court can hear from you is an apology. I shall hear no explanation.

Mr. Hastings—Certainly my Lord, if you think that the publication of these pleadings is contempt of Court. It was not intended to be so by myself or, I am sure, by the representative of the *Daily Press*; and for my part I apologise sincerely to your Lordship if you think that anything of the kind has occurred. As your Lordship says, the representative came and asked to be allowed to publish the documents, and as they were public documents and he could have inspected them and taken a copy for 50 cents—

His Lordship—But not to publish them.

Mr. Hastings—I thought there was no harm; and I may say I consulted Mr. Deacon before letting the representative have them, and we both considered there was no harm in letting him have the documents. With regard to prejudicing the case, my Lord, both documents were published; therefore both sides of the case were published.

His Lordship—Exactly so; but not with the consent of the other side. The other side may have said, "We do not agree to have them published." As I said just now I do not think there

was any contempt of Court intended, but I felt it my duty to call attention very strongly to the matter. Before I took any steps I had a conference with the Chief Justice, and so I am not acting alone. I wish to add that I am glad that one newspaper at any rate had the discretion to avoid publishing it or obtaining the thing directly or indirectly.

The case was then proceeded with.

Mr. Hastings first of all asked leave to reduce the claim to the sum of \$82.32.

Mr. Johnson offered no objection and the amendment was made.

Mr. Hastings, in explaining the facts of the case, said the plaintiff was the owner of houses Nos. 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, and 90, Queen's Road East. The houses were comparatively new, having been built seven or eight years ago, and they contained on the ground floor certain mezzanine floors or cocklofts extending from the back of the shop to more than one-third the length of the shop. In April last the plaintiff, hearing there was some question raised by the Sanitary Board about cocklofts and wishing to be on the safe side, instructed Mr. Lemm, an architect, to prepare plans of the cocklofts in the houses and to submit them to the Sanitary Board for approval, and to obtain their permission to retain the cocklofts. Accordingly Mr. Lemm prepared the plans and sent them in to the Sanitary Board requesting permission to retain the cocklofts in that form. In reply he received a letter from one of the defendants, Dr. Clark, asking whether the houses in question had been erected since the passing of the Ordinance 15 of 1894; if not, no permission was required from the Sanitary Board for the retention of the cocklofts, provided there were no partition rooms either above or below the loft. Mr. Lemm then informed Dr. Clark that these houses had been erected before the passing of the Ordinance 15 of 1894, and, moreover, that there were no partition rooms either above or below the loft except in one case, No. 90, and that was forthwith removed. Therefore these cocklofts complied with the requirements stated by Dr. Clark, and if his letter was correct no permission was required from the Sanitary Board for their retention, and consequently no permission was obtained. On the 8th May last, within a month after the receipt of Dr. Clark's letter, certain officers of the Sanitary Board and a gang of men, consisting of soldiers and coolies, went to the houses and proceeded to pull down the cocklofts, or portions of them. They did not treat all the houses alike. In No. 80 they pulled down a portion of the cockloft at the back of the shop about four feet in width; in No. 82 they pulled down the whole cockloft; No. 84 they treated in much the same manner as No. 80, pulling down a portion of the back; in No. 86 they pulled down the back of the cockloft and removed the floor to the extent of four feet on each side; in No. 88 they pulled down a portion of the west side measuring about 7 feet 8 inches; in No. 90 they pulled down a portion at the back of the shop. Not only did they do that, but they actually removed a considerable amount of the materials of these cocklofts, boardings and joists, and carried them away. After that some correspondence passed. On the 15th May he (counsel) wrote to the Secretary of the Sanitary Board mentioning the pulling down of the cocklofts in the houses and pointing out that there was no justification for pulling down the cocklofts as they were in no way illegal. He therefore requested the Board to re-imburse the owner. No answer was received to that letter, and on the 3rd June he again wrote regretting that no reply had been sent to him, repeating the claim for damages, and asking if the Board admitted their liability; if they did not proceedings would be taken. On the same day Mr. McCallum, the Secretary to the Board, wrote asking if counsel's client would specify clearly and distinctly where these premises were and what they were, although counsel had clearly specified the premises on the 15th May. On the 4th June Mr. A. B. Johnson wrote replying to the letter of the 15th May and stating that the Board, after consideration, were unable to comply with the request contained in the last paragraph of the letter, and the correspondence closed. With regard to the law of the case counsel mentioned that the first five defendants were members of the Sanitary

Board, which was established by the Public Health Ordinance 24 of 1887. The Board was to some extent a legislative body, as it had extensive powers of making by-laws, but it was also an executive body, having certain duties to perform which were carried out by its servants. These duties must be performed strictly in accordance with the powers conferred on the Board by Ordinance, and if the Board went beyond those powers and did acts which were unauthorised they became trespassers and were liable in damages accordingly. It was therefore incumbent upon the Board to justify their proceedings in this case by some legislative authority, and in the third paragraph of their answer they justify their action under the provisions of the Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance, 1894, and by the by-laws made thereunder. Before referring to the provisions under that Ordinance counsel submitted two points to his Lordship. The first was that these cocklofts were perfectly legal as they stood; and the second point was that even if they were illegal there was no power under the Ordinance or under the by-laws authorising the Sanitary Board to pull them down. On the contrary, a different procedure was laid down by the Ordinance. Section 7 of Ordinance 15 of 1894 repealed section 24 of Ordinance 15 of 1889, the Building Ordinance. Sub-section 24 of that Ordinance was repealed by sub-section 1 of section 7 of Ordinance 15 of 1894, and it ran as follows—"It shall not be lawful to construct, put up, continue, or maintain in any room of any domestic building now or hereafter erected or in course of erection any mezzanine floor, storey, or cockloft where such room is partitioned or divided off into separate compartments without the permission in writing of the Sanitary Board." Therefore in order to bring a cockloft within that sub-section the room in which it is must be partitioned or divided off into separate compartments. Therefore it was clear that sub-section did not apply to this case; and it was admitted by Dr. Clark in his letter that no permission was necessary. Sub-section 2 of section 7 referred to buildings erected after the passing of the Ordinance; the houses in question were erected before the passing of the Ordinance, and he (counsel) thought it was perfectly clear that neither of those two sub-sections applied to the present cocklofts; it could not be argued that the sub-sections applied to them. Therefore, what was the law with regard to these cocklofts? The provision which is contained in the Building Ordinance was repealed, and the consequence was that with regard to the cocklofts erected before the passing of the Ordinance, and in which there are no partition rooms, there were no limitations laid down by the law as far as counsel had been able to discover. Therefore he submitted that the cocklofts were perfectly legal and did not contravene any Ordinance of this colony; indeed Dr. Clark, by his letter, impliedly admitted as much. The next section to which counsel would call his Lordship's attention was section 11, which gave the Board power to inspect premises upon reasonable notice to the occupiers or owners. In this case no notice was given to the occupiers or owners of the houses before the cocklofts were pulled down. Under that section "the Board had power by its officers to enter and inspect, upon reasonable notice to the occupiers or owners, any building and curtilage for the purpose of ascertaining the sanitary condition, cleanliness, or good order thereof or of any part thereof, and of the partitions, mezzanine floors, storeys, and cocklofts." Therefore if they entered and inspected they were perfectly within their powers.

His Lordship—Upon reasonable notice.

Mr. Hastings—Yes, upon reasonable notice. Continuing, counsel said that his Lordship was aware that if a man entered a place under his powers and committed an act beyond his powers he became a trespasser. Supposing the cocklofts were not legal section 19 laid down the procedure which the Board should have taken. Sub-section B said—"Every person who shall construct, put up, continue, or maintain any balcony, verandah, mezzanine floor, storey, cockloft, or partition wall contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance shall be liable on summary conviction before a Magistrate to a penalty not exceeding \$25, and such Magistrate may order the removal of such

illegal construction and inflict a penalty not exceeding \$5 for each day such order is not complied with." There was no word in the Ordinance, as far as counsel had been able to ascertain, giving the Sanitary Board power to take the law into their own hands and to remove cocklofts. Then there were the by-laws. He did not know which section his friend relied upon—

His Lordship—9 or 10 I should think.

Mr. Hastings said perhaps that was so, but he did not know. Section 10 said that the Secretary of the Board shall furnish the Board's inspectors with general authority in writing "to enter and inspect all buildings and curtilages for the purpose of ascertaining the sanitary condition, cleanliness or good order thereof," &c. Possibly they entered under that power, but there was another power which was contained in section 22. That referred to neighbourhoods affected by diseases, but in this case the Board had not pleaded that the neighbourhood where these cocklofts were was infected with any infectious disease. He did not know whether the defendants were going to set that up. The section stated that "in any neighbourhood affected by such diseases the officers of the Board duly authorised in writing may make a house to house visitation for the purpose of inspecting the sanitary condition of any premises so visited and of all and every part thereof, and of ascertaining whether there are any persons in or upon the said premises attacked or affected by the said diseases or who have died thereof. If the premises so visited, or any part thereof, shall be found in a dirty or insanitary condition, in the opinion of the officer making such visitation, he may forthwith take steps to have the same thoroughly cleansed and disinfected by the staff of the said Board or by contractors or others specially appointed for that purpose." So if that section applied the officers had power to cleanse and disinfect, but that was very different from pulling down portions of the premises themselves. The next section ran—"All articles of clothing or bedding and all other articles whatsoever, which have been in contact with any person or body in any way affected by such diseases, shall be removed from any premises on which they are, or shall be found, by the officers or contractors of the Sanitary Board, in covered vehicles and with such precautions and in such manner as the Board shall from time to time direct, and shall be thoroughly disinfected and then returned to the owner or owners thereof." If the defendants were going to set that up counsel would submit that the section did not refer to portions of houses. He contended that there was nothing in the by-laws or in the Ordinance which authorised the Board to pull down cocklofts, whether legal or illegal, and remove them. If the cocklofts were illegal the defendants should have applied to the Magistrate for an order to remove them. The defendants, by their answer, had denied their liability, but had paid into Court the sum of \$60, and they asserted that that sum was sufficient to satisfy the claim of the plaintiff. That was an unusual form of pleading in this colony, and counsel did not remember anything like it before. It was material to consider the effect of such a pleading. The rules in England provide for the payment in with the defence denying all liability, but the Code in Hongkong did not seem to contemplate such a payment. Sub-section 2 of section 35 of the Code says, "Payment into Court, whether made in satisfaction of the plaintiff's claim generally, or in satisfaction of some specific part thereof, operates as an admission of liability to the extent of the amount paid in and no more, and for no other purpose." Therefore counsel took it that this payment was an admission of the plaintiff's claim to the amount of \$60, and so, whatever the result of the action—whether plaintiff succeeded or not—he would be entitled to the \$60. That view was borne out by the case *Burdon v. Greenwood*, 39 Law Times Reports, new series, page 223. "The plaintiff is entitled to the money paid in whether he succeeds in the action or not." In this case the amount at stake was not very large, but it was in the nature of a test case, because there are certain other claims which will be influenced by the result of this action. Evidence was then called.

9th July.

The evidence having been concluded, Mr. Johnson, for the defence, submitted that upon the evidence it had been satisfactorily proved that the defendants were justified in the course they adopted in removing the cocklofts. As he had stated on the previous day, the law on the subject was contained in by-law 22, and on that by-law the Board relied. It had reference to infectious diseases in neighbourhoods and houses, and the question was whether those particular houses came under the description given in the by-law. Dr. Clark, in his evidence, said it was necessary to remove woodwork in some cases in order to prevent the spread of the disease, and counsel submitted that the Board were justified, in order to obtain thorough cleansing of the houses, in doing what they did. It was necessary to have proper ventilation, and therefore the cocklofts were cut away in order to get at the windows. If his Lordship thought the defendants were not justified under by-law 22, the question of the amount of damages had to be considered. Counsel submitted that the money paid into Court was amply sufficient to pay for the damages. Speaking of the section of the Code relating to payment of money into Court counsel quoted section 8 of Ordinance 5 of 1856. "Payment of money by a defendant into Court shall in no way sever be deemed an admission of the cause for which such action may have been brought." It had been stated by the solicitor for the plaintiff and elsewhere that this was a test case. It was nothing of the sort, as there was no right to be tried here at all. The simple question to be tried was whether through the entry the plaintiff had suffered damages. Counsel asked his Lordship to give a verdict for the defendants.

Mr. Hastings said the real point was a question of principle. Was the action of the Sanitary Board in pulling down the plaintiff's cocklofts within the powers conferred on them by the law of this colony, or was it *ultra vires* and consequently illegal? The Board could have acted under the by-law and they could have lifted the boards in order to cleanse and disinfect them and then put them back again, but there was no justification in pulling down the cocklofts and taking them away. No evidence had been given as to whether the wood was burnt.

His Lordship—I do not think that bears on the case at all.

Mr. Hastings thought it did, as it might explain the removal of some of the boards which were not apparently ordered to be removed by the Sanitary Board. It was possible that after the constables and the soldiers had gone away—they admitted they left the coolies there—some of the coolies took a fancy to these boards, removed them, and took them away in a cart. That was perfectly possible, and some of the tenants of 86 and 88 had sworn that the boards were taken away by some of the gang. The coolies might either have sold them or used them for their own purpose in some other way. The Board had no right under the by-law to pull down the cocklofts. Cleansing was making clean and not pulling down and burning, and disinfecting was removing infection. Dr. Clark, in his evidence, had ingeniously said that the cocklofts were removed for the purposes of disinfection, because pure air was thereby let in at the windows, but the Court must be bound by the ordinary plain meaning of the word. The Board ought to have gone to the Magistrate for power to remove the cocklofts and therefore counsel asked for a verdict for the plaintiff.

Judgment was reserved.

11th July.

HO YUN TIN v. J. W. KEW AND CO.

Plaintiff claimed \$300 from the defendant for damages sustained in a collision.

Mr. E. J. Grist appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. Hastings (of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) represented the defendants.

It will be remembered that some time ago the plaintiff brought an action against Cheung Hoi, the owner of the steam launch *Kwongchoi*,

for damages sustained to a cargo junk while in tow of the launch. Ho Yun Tin, who is the owner of cargo boat 216, on the 28th April engaged the *Kwongchoi* to tow the cargo boat to the steamer *Wuhu*, which was lying in Yau-mati Bay. While nearing the *Wuhu* the cargo boat was run into by J. W. Kew & Co.'s water boat No. 2. The plaintiff sued the owner of the *Kwongchoi* for damages amounting to \$375, on the ground that the *Kwongchoi* was responsible for the collision. Judgment, however, was given for the defendant, and plaintiff now sought damages from Messrs. J. W. Kew & Co.

Mr. Grist said the plaintiff had set down his claim at \$300. Defendant had admitted liability and had paid into Court \$75 as sufficient to satisfy plaintiff's claim. He wished to reduce the claim from \$300 to \$208, and he took it there was nothing now to consider except the amount of damage.

Evidence was then given as to the amount of the damage suffered by plaintiff.

Judgment was given for the plaintiff for \$130 with costs.

MURDER OF A POLICEMAN.

ANOTHER ARMED THIEF IN THE CITY.

At a quarter to ten on the morning of the 12th July a Chinese constable, named Lai Tak Sing, No. 218, was shot whilst endeavouring to catch a thief in a narrow lane off Gage Street, and the wounded man now lies in a dangerous condition in the Government Civil Hospital. The circumstances of the case remind one very forcibly of the murder at Wanchai except that yesterday's crime was, if anything, of a more daring kind, having been perpetrated in the centre of the city in open daylight and in the presence of many people. It seems that soon after nine o'clock in the morning a man went to the Central Police Station and complained that his jacket had been stolen from him by one Lai Mit. Constable 218 was told off to arrest the thief, who is well known to the police. In Wellington Street the lukong met a man who knew Lai Mit, and he asked him to point out the thief. The man just then saw the wanted criminal walking along the street and he pointed him out to the constable. Both at once went towards Lai Mit, who ran away on seeing that he was followed. He was chased into Gutzlaff Street, then into Gage Street, Graham Street, Lyndhurst Terrace, Gutzlaff Street again, and then into a narrow lane running from Gutzlaff Street into Gage Street. Here the pursued one turned round and pointed a revolver at the informer, who was a few yards behind and who immediately dropped back into a doorway and so sheltered himself from any attack. The constable, however, to his great credit be it said, kept up the chase, and on seeing that he had not been cowed by the threat with the revolver the thief pointed the weapon at his pursuer and fired. The bullet struck the lukong in the left side of the abdomen and rendered him practically helpless. He courageously stood up, pressed one hand against the bleeding wound, blew his whistle as loudly as he could, and then dropped with exhaustion. The people in the street were all Chinese, and not one of them offered any assistance or thought it worth while to chase the would-be murderer, who consequently got clear away before another constable arrived on the scene. News of the crime very quickly reached the Central Police Station, and as soon as possible the whole of the detective staff and several other police officers turned out and commenced a search for the would-be murderer. The wounded lukong was taken to the Government Civil Hospital, where he died at 4 a.m. on the 14th. On the 13th his depositions were taken. He detailed the circumstances of the chase and said that he was within about three yards of the thief when the shot was fired. The assailant carried his revolver up his sleeve and so adopted the same tactics as the Wanchai murderer. The criminal got about ten minutes' start of the police, but fortunately he is well known to most of the officers, and if he has not left the colony, which is not looked upon as likely, he will in all probability be captured.

EXECUTION IN VICTORIA GAOL.

On the morning of the 7th July at 6.25 Tung Foong, who murdered a district watchman at Wanchai on the 2nd May last, was hanged in Victoria Gaol. The arrangements for the execution had been carefully planned and were in every way satisfactory. The culprit met his fate without murmuring. He seemed to be quite dazed, his face was flushed, and he was in a fever of perspiration, and doubtless he did not quite realize what was transpiring. Owing to his attempt to commit suicide in gaol by cutting his wrist his queue was cut off some days ago to prevent him from strangling himself, and as he walked on to the scaffold his loose shock of shortened hair gave him rather a wild, unkempt appearance. He was supported by two warders and a warder also acted as executioner. Absolutely no time was lost and death was instantaneous. Mr. Lethbridge, the Superintendent of the Gaol, saw that the extreme sentence of the law was properly carried out, and Dr. Bell, the medical officer, and three representatives of the press were also present. In the afternoon Hon. Commander Hastings held the inquest. The jury-men were—Messrs. F. N. Firth, M. Jones, and F. X. Ozorio. Chief Warder Craig spoke to witnessing the execution, and Dr. Bell said that death was caused by dislocation of the spine. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was given.

SERIOUS COOLIE TROUBLE AT AMOY.

THE "REDPOLE" GUNS PLACED READY FOR ACTION.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

In Amoy we (the British) live in the piping times of peace, and to see Nordenfeldt guns placed in a conspicuous position on the Bund naturally excites considerable animation. Such a sight presented itself to the writer on Wednesday, the 8th inst. Owing to the request of the Consul H.M.S. *Redpole* arrived and her crew was displayed to the no slight amazement of the inhabitants of Amoy, and, let us hope, to the terror of the malcontents.

Messrs. Butterfield and Swire having had cause to change their present coolie contractor, much intimidation had taken place, so much so that the fresh coolies working were in great trepidation lest the former coolies should take revenge; hence, the guard in front of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's.

Although the redoubtable guns were not used, the gallant tars kept order, and woe to the hapless coolie who pushed his way through the crowd, for short would have been his shrift. Jack had been ordered to take the last resort.

The Taotai arrived about 4 p.m. and the crowd considerably increased. What his determination will be is not known, but the merchants of Amoy rely upon the gallant commander of the *Redpole* to quell any serious trouble with the Coolie Guild.

In a private letter the following note on the same incident is given.—Quite a lot of excitement has been caused in getting the new contractor for Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's work. The old employees repeatedly threatened to break out in open violence against new comers. The old hands lurked about the narrow streets waiting to fall upon their foes, and they would have smashed a few skulls if the *Redpole* had not arrived. It was really a fine sight to see two Nordenfeldts placed ready for action, marines walking on sentry duty. Jacks planted at the back of the guns, and H.B.M.'s Consul wearing an eager air. As soon as the *Redpole* goes then will come the tug of war, for the coolie guild is very strong—2,000 of them—and they will be desperate, Taotai or no Taotai.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following cable from the Mine, being the result of the cyanide clean up (third run).—The cyanide plant ran fifteen days treating 430 tons of clean tailings yielding 280 oz. of bullion valued at \$1 13s. 3d. per oz.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 8th July in the Council Chamber. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.
Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.
Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, Acting Attorney-General.
Hon. A. M. THOMPSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.
Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.
Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY, Harbour Master.
Hon. COMMANDER W. C. H. HASTINGS, Acting Police Magistrate.
Hon. C. P. CHATER.
Hon. HO KAI.
Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.
Hon. E. B. BELILIOS, C.M.G.
Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.
Mr. F. J. BADELEY, Acting Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S DESPATCH.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, I have the honour to lay upon the table copies of the correspondence which has passed between myself and Lord Ripon and the present Colonial Secretary of State in reference to the petition addressed to the House of Commons praying for some amendment of the constitution of this Colony. Mr. Chamberlain apologises for not having answered this important petition and these despatches at an earlier date owing to pressure of business at the Colonial Office; and he informs me that as Lord Ripon stated in 1894 that he (Lord Ripon) could hold out no hope of Hongkong ceasing to be a Crown Colony, he (Mr. Chamberlain) has come to the same conclusion. He says "Neither can I hold out any such hope, for I conceive that in the case of Hongkong, representative Government, on whatever form of franchise it might be based, and with whatever supposed safeguards as to the Executive power, would be wholly out of place." He then goes on to say that two practical points remain to be decided. One is whether any further representation on the Legislative Council, as prayed for by the unofficial members can be made, and the other is whether the unofficial element, as I recommended, should be introduced into the Executive Council. Mr. Chamberlain has agreed to add two members to the Legislative Council, one of whom he states should be the Officer Commanding the Troops, and the second a person belonging to the Chinese community as the element which is least represented whilst it is by far the most numerous. He says he would regard as valuable any step which would tend to attach them—the Chinese—more closely to the British connection and to increase their practical interest in public affairs. (Hear, hear). With regard to the adding of unofficial members to the Executive Council I recommended in May or June, 1894, that two members—unofficial members—should be added to the Executive body and to that recommendation, I am very glad to say, Mr. Chamberlain has assented. He leaves the selection in my hands, and he trusts, and he feels certain, the selection will be made in accordance with merit. I am sure you will be all very glad to hear, having that latitude or discretion given me, that I have chosen the senior member of the unofficial body, Mr. Chater, and Mr. Bell-Irving. Hereafter, when the Royal Instruction comes out, Mr. Chater and Mr. Bell-Irving will be added to the Executive Council. The Chinese gentleman I have chosen for the Legislative Council is Mr. Wei Yuk, a gentleman who is well known and thoroughly representative of the Chinese community and well suited for the appointment for which I have selected him.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid the following papers upon the table—Returns of Superior and Subordinate Courts for 1895; the Harbour Master's Report for 1895; the Report of the Postmaster General for 1895; the Report of the Director of Public Works for 1895; the Report of the Superintendent of the

Botanical and Afforestation Department for 1895; the Reports on the Hongkong Volunteers; the Report on the Water Supply; the Report on Plague; the Acting Colonial Surgeon's Report for 1895; the Report of the Sanitary Superintendent for 1895; the Blue Book; the Report of the Flogging Committee appointed by His Excellency in connection with two cases which had been commented upon in the public press; the Financial Returns; the Report of the Committee appointed to consider British trade in the colony; and the Registrar-General's Report for 1895.

The Acting ATTORNEY-GENERAL laid upon the table the Report of the Law Committee upon the Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance.

HONGKONG MEDICAL COLLEGE.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Before proceeding to the business and the Orders of the Day, I wish to state that it is my intention to withdraw for a short time the Finance Minute No 3, which was to have been submitted to you to-day, recommending a vote of \$40,000, being a Government grant-in-aid of the College of Medicine for Chinese. We all know that this institution has been very valuable and that it may be made more valuable. I am personally strongly in favour of having it made so without any unnecessary conditions. I had a meeting the other day at Craigieburn with the Principal Medical Officer, the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Ho Kai, Dr. Thomson, and Mr. Lockhart, and we came to the conclusion that it would be better to alter the title of this institution and call it the Hongkong Medical College and not the College of Medicine for Chinese in Hongkong, so as to make it available for persons of all nationalities, whether Portuguese, Chinese, or Eurasians; that it should be reorganised by Ordinance; and that qualified students should have a recognised status. We hoped it would be made entirely self-supporting, and that, under Government control, more than at present, its continuity would be secured. No doubt, Mr. Belilios will renew his very generous offer if the institution is reorganised and re-established on this basis. The gentlemen whom I have named have formed themselves into a Committee, and they will send me a report based on the lines which I have laid down; and then I shall have great pleasure in submitting the vote to the Council and I trust it will be unanimously passed.

CATTLE DISEASE.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Has the attention of the Government been directed to the account in the *Daily Press* of 16th March of the insanitary state of things during the recent fatal disease amongst the cattle at Pokfulam, and will the Government obtain from the Sanitary Board and the Government departments concerned and lay upon the table a complete and detailed statement of the actual position of matters from day to day, as well as a copy of the correspondence between the Government and the Dairy Farm Co., Limited, together with the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon's reports for 1888 and 1889, also the report by the Honourable the Surveyor General, the Honourable O. Chadwick, and Mr. Ladds, referred to in his (Mr. Ladds') report dated 12th January, 1891?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The Government has seen the report in the *Daily Press* of the 16th March. The question of the hon. member was referred to the Sanitary Board, when Mr. Ede, a member of the Board, expressed the following opinion: "I think the statement asked by Mr. Whitehead should not, as far as the Sanitary Board is concerned, be given. The Board acts under the authority of certain laws, and as far I know acted in accordance therewith in respect of the cattle plague at the Dairy Farm. It would be a vexatious waste of energy and time to furnish such a complete and detailed statement of the actual position of matters from day to day, and I am entirely opposed to the principle involved in supplying reports of this nature. If any person has a grievance in connection with this matter against the Sanitary Board, let him better state it." With Mr. Ede's views the other members of the Sanitary Board agreed and in them the Government concurs.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—And as regards the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon's reports for 1888 and 1889 which so far have not been published?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—There is no objection to the hon. member seeing these reports if they have not been published.

THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Will the Government inform the Council what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to secure the immediate services of a Veterinary Surgeon, and is it the intention of the Government to provide in the future against the contingency of the Veterinary Surgeon going on leave?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—This question was referred to the Sanitary Board, when the Secretary wrote the following minute:—"I can hardly think the Board will recommend the engaging of an Assistant Veterinary Surgeon—and that seems to be the only reasonable reading of the question—inasmuch as, if it were not for the work which has to be done in the managing of the public slaughter-houses and food markets, there would be practically nothing for a Veterinary Surgeon to do. It was because it was felt that a Veterinary Surgeon would be on the whole the best kind of man to have to supervise the importation of cattle for food, the management of the public slaughter-houses and markets, that the Board urged some eight or nine years ago the appointment of such an officer. The title then recommended and adopted was 'Inspector of Livestock and Markets.' When the title was changed it was specifically laid down that it meant no change of duties. The mere fact that a trading company has been so unfortunate as to lose by far the greater number of their milch cows does not seem to me a reason why the ratepayers of the colony should be saddled with the salary of an officer whose post would be for all practical purposes a sinecure." From the views expressed by the Secretary, with which all the members of the Board, including Mr. Ede, agreed, it appears that an Assistant Veterinary Surgeon is not necessary.

THE NEW PUBLIC OFFICES.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Will the Government inform the Council the cause of delay in taking steps to obtain by public competition plans and designs for the proposed new Government offices, including the Post-office, the Supreme Court, &c., as directed some time ago by the Governor?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Unavoidable delay has arisen owing to the time required for obtaining and scheduling the information and preparing the conditions which must be definitely decided before competition can be invited. The scheme of erecting new Government offices has been referred to the Secretary of State for his sanction, and he has called for a further report, especially as regards the manner in which it is proposed to meet the expenditure required to carry out the proposed scheme.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DESPATCH.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—The next question has reference to the production of the Secretary of State's despatch, but as it has been laid on the table there is no necessity to ask the question, and I beg to withdraw it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—There is no objection. I have only to say that the papers were in type before the receipt of the hon. Member's question.

SANITARY BOARD REFORM.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Does the Government intend to take any action for the reconstruction of the Sanitary Board in accordance with the opinion expressed by the British members of the community at the ballot taken on the 16th day of May last, the result of which was duly reported to the Government by Mr. J. Ede?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The question of the construction of the Sanitary Board has been referred to the Secretary of State for his final decision, and he has been informed of the result of the ballot to which the hon. member refers.

THE COST OF GAP ROCK LIGHTHOUSE, AND

THE SPECIAL LIGHT DUES.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Will the Government lay upon the table a statement showing (1) the cost of the construction of the Gap Rock Lighthouse, and the cost of laying down the

cable connecting Gap Rock with Hongkong; (2) the total cost of maintenance of the light and the cable to the 30th ulto.; and (3) the total proceeds of the special Gap Rock Lighthouse rate, imposed for the specific purpose of reimbursing the Government the cost of the Gap Rock light and the connecting cable, from the date it was levied to 30th ulto.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to the hon. member I beg to lay upon the table the statement is as follows:—Cost of construction, &c., of Gap Rock Lighthouse—1889, \$72,632.89; 1890, \$39,177.31; 1891, \$49,302.66; 1892, \$30,895.52; total, \$192,008.38; improvements, \$2,978.78; grand total, \$194,987.16. Cost of laying down the cable, \$87,253.33.

Maintenance of Gap Rock Lighthouse—1892, \$4,598.62; 1893, \$8,051.86; 1894, \$7,889.47; 1895, \$8,647.58; 1896 (6 months), \$4,507.41; total, \$33,694.94.

Proceeds of the special Gap Rock rate of 1½ cents up to 30th June, 1896—1890, \$38,256; 1891, \$53,376; 1892, \$54,941; 1893, \$57,205; 1894, \$55,390; 1895, \$63,902; 1896 (6 months), \$35,551.

MOTION FOR SANITARY BOARD PAPERS.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Sir, I rise to move the resolution, of which I have given due notice, calling for the correspondence and papers connected with the necessity for the proposed reconstitution of the Sanitary Board. Ordinance No. 24 of 1887 is entitled "The Public Health Ordinance," and was not sanctioned by the Home Government without the fullest enquiry. The enactment passed this Council after protracted debate and discussion on the 23rd September, 1887, but was not assented to by the Governor until the 30th day of May, 1888. The Secretary of State's despatch authorising it stipulated that this legislation should only be carried out slowly and by degrees, and with every due consideration for the interests to be affected thereby. It was this Ordinance which created the present Sanitary Board in 1888, and section 4 states that the Board shall consist of four official and not more than six unofficial members. During the first years of the Board's existence, I believe letters and memoranda from its individual members called the attention of the Government to certain defects in the working of the Board, and suggested improvements and alterations. In 1890, during Sir William Des Vœux's absence on leave, but at his request (now) Sir Francis Fleming, then Administrator, framed definite proposals, after very full enquiry, for extending the Board's powers and improving its organisation. Sir William Des Vœux returned to the colony, but only for a few months, as ill-health compelled his retirement from the Service in 1891; hence nothing was then done, and nothing has been done since. It is very desirable that we should, if possible, have the opportunity of considering Sir Francis Fleming's proposals, and the relative papers, so that we may become acquainted with what were the defects in the working of the Board found to exist in practice. In 1895 Government appointed the Medical Officer of Health a member of the Sanitary Board, and not under the Board's orders. To this act the unofficial members of the Board then in the colony took exception, and resigned their seats. It is necessary that Government should give the unofficial members of Council the opportunity of studying the correspondence and despatches which passed between the Colonial authorities and the Home officials in connection with:—(1.) The resignation of the unofficial members of the Board. (2.) The appointment of the Medical Officer of Health, his position, and relation to the Sanitary Board. (3.) The recommendations of the unofficial members of Council. (4.) The Colonial Government's reasons and arguments in support of the necessity for now proposing to so alter and change the constitution of the Board. The sole and only remedy proposed in the draft Bill entitled "The Sanitary Board Ordinance of 1896" is the reduction of the number of official members from 4 to 3, and the reduction of the unofficial members from "not more than 6" to 2, and of this it appears, in the objects and reasons attached to the draft Bill, that the Secretary of State has approved. I feel quite certain Sir William Des Vœux and the Secretary of State in 1888

did not sanction a majority of unofficial members on the Board without having first made the very fullest enquiries and conclusively satisfied themselves of the wisdom of their deliberate action. Unless we have before us very substantial grounds and strong reasons, we cannot, I think, justify our beginning to undo the work of a former Secretary of State and a former Governor who was so highly esteemed and respected here. I think the British members of the community confirmed on 15th and 16th May last most emphatically the experience throughout the vast British Empire and British India, viz., that for the general improvement in sanitation the co-operation of the public, through their legally elected representatives, is essential. I respectfully submit, sir, it is not only necessary but it is indispensable that the Government should publish all the correspondence and papers. They are the sole and only material which can enable the unofficial members and the public to form an independent and accurate opinion on the merits of the very important change now proposed.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Does anyone second that? **Hon. Ho Kai**—I beg to second, sir.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to the motion I can only repeat what I stated a short time ago, that the question of the constitution of the Sanitary Board has been referred to the Secretary of State for his final decision, and that the Government does not propose to lay upon the table any papers in connection therewith until that decision has been received.

HIS EXCELLENCY (to Hon. T. H. Whitehead)—Do you wish to take a vote upon that, or not?

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—In reply, sir, to the hon. the Colonial Secretary I think it would be advisable to have the papers now in order that unofficial members may have the opportunity of expressing their views before the final decision of the Secretary of State has been arrived at.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Do you understand that the Secretary of State has all the papers and all the correspondence and result of the ballot—that everything is before him?

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Your Excellency on the 14th December last you promised to lay all the papers on the table as soon as the Secretary of State's decision had been arrived at. The draft Bill was submitted to the Council in March last and from the objects and reasons attached to the draft Bill the Secretary of State would appear to have come to a decision.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—The decision of the Secretary of State was then supposed to be final, but owing to circumstances which have arisen since the decision is not regarded as final. The Government does not therefore propose to lay any papers in this subject until a final decision has been received.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Seeing that there has lately been a considerable amount of comment and discussion regarding the production of these papers, it was my original intention to have supported the motion of the member of the Chamber of Commerce, which has been seconded by my hon. friend on my right (Hon. Ho Kai). After the remarks of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary I shall content myself by waiting till the final decision of the Secretary of State arrives. Perhaps the proposer and seconder will concur with me in this course.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Sir, under these circumstances I will withdraw the motion, with your Excellency's sanction.

The motion was therefore allowed to be withdrawn.

FIRE SIGNALS.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS gave notice of the following question:—Referring to the fire that took place recently on board the British barque *Glen Caladh*, is there, as if I mistake not was the case on the old Police hulk, a look-out for signals for aid afloat maintained at Tsim-sahui Police Station? If not, why has the system been abandoned?

FIRST READINGS OF BILLS.

The following Bills were read the first time—An Ordinance to further amend the law relating to Widows' and Orphans' Pensions; an Ordinance to authorise the appropriation of a supplementary sum of \$1,002,275.7 to defray the charges of the year 1895; an Ordinance to make better provision for the sale of food and drugs

in a pure state; an Ordinance to regulate the Admiralty procedure at the Supreme Court; an Ordinance to amend the Marriage Ordinance, 1875; an Ordinance to alter the titles of prison officers employed in this colony.

BILLS PASSED.

The Bill entitled an Ordinance for the naturalization of Lee Shew was read a second time, committed, and passed. The Ordinance to provide for the issue of search warrants in the case of suspected coinage offences was read a second time, committed, and passed. An Ordinance to supplement the provisions of the Licensing Consolidation Ordinance, 1887, also went through all the stages and was passed.

THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS. Council went into Committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the registration of births and deaths.

Amendments were made in accordance with the report of the Law Committee appointed to consider the Bill, and the Ordinance was passed.

HIS EXCELLENCY THANKED.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Sir, I am aware I am out of order in rising now, but with your Excellency's permission I should like to make a few remarks. The information which your Excellency gave us at the opening of Council and more especially the latter part of it, namely, the appointment of two new members to the Executive Council, took me somewhat by surprise, for it was somewhat different from what we had expected to hear, and indeed I may say was wholly unexpected. Though perhaps it is rather late in the day, I beg now to thank your Excellency for the honour you have done me in nominating me to fill one of these seats, and in accepting it I need hardly say that I will do the utmost in my power to promote the interests and the welfare of the colony, where I have resided for so long a period. (Applause.)

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING—Sir, I also desire to say that it affords me very great pleasure to accept a seat on the Executive Council, and I shall also, like the hon. the senior unofficial member, do my utmost to further the interests of the colony. (Applause.)

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned for a fortnight.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DECISION.

The papers with reference to the colony's petition to the House of Commons praying for an amendment of the constitution of this colony were laid on the table of the Legislative Council on the 8th July. We give below the despatches of the Governor, of Lord Ripon, and of Mr. Chamberlain.

FROM THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Hongkong, 5th June, 1894.

My Lord Marquess.—I have the honour to transmit to you a petition which has been forwarded to me by the Honourable T. H. Whitehead and which is addressed to the House of Commons and prays for an amendment of the constitution of the Crown colony of Hongkong.

I have recently granted Mr. Whitehead six months' leave of absence from the Legislative Council, and he is not only the prime mover in this petition but the bearer of it to England. I think I am justified in saying that it owes its origin principally to the imposition upon the taxpayers, some three years ago, of the additional Military Contribution of £20,000 a year.

I enclose for your lordship's consideration a report on this document by Mr. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, the Acting Colonial Secretary, and also communications from the Honourable J. J. Keewick, M.L.C., Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Honourable E. R. Belilios, M.L.C., C.M.G., in which these gentlemen express their decided opinion that the prayer of the petition should not be granted.

These papers will be of material assistance in enabling your Lordship to arrive at a decision upon the subject.

The second clause of the petition seems to me to supply an answer to the several requests of the petitioners.

It is impossible that Hongkong can have been otherwise than well governed if it has risen to the prosperous condition which the petitioners claim for it, and that it has reached that pitch of prosperity under the "Crown colony system" is indisputable.

I concur generally in the criticisms of Mr. Stewart Lockhart. I believe that Chinese, who are indifferently represented, and the Portuguese, who are not represented at all, if a plebiscite could be taken, would be in favour of a pure autocracy; the Americans need not be counted, and the "Britishers," with the exception of a few "unquiet spirits," would be satisfied to let matters remain as they are. That they are capable of improvement nevertheless, so far as "municipal" questions are concerned, I admit. During twenty years, however, of Colonial Government, I have not yet been fortunate enough to come in contact with a mayor and council, excepting that perhaps of the comparatively small town of San Fernando in Trinidad, which was capable of dealing with, and had sufficient time to deal with, purely local affairs, and even in that solitary case the municipal body was generally in financial difficulties.

I do not think that in Hongkong a sufficient number of gentlemen of independent means and spirit and with sufficient leisure could be found to form a capable and energetic Municipal Council.

Personally I should not object to a slight addition to the Unofficial side of the Legislative Council in Hongkong, though I cannot admit the justice or truth of the petitioners' plea, neither should I object to the appointment to the Executive Council of an Unofficial Member whose long residence and local knowledge would doubtless be of great assistance to the Executive in the preparation of measures to be submitted to the Legislative Council. Practically such assistance could always be obtained if the *status quo* were maintained, and I may state that I invariably consult the Unofficial Members before bringing into Council measures of purely local interest.

If your Lordship should desire to make or recommend any concession to the petitioners, I would advise the appointment of an Unofficial Member with a seat in both Councils.

I am aware that there are serious objections to such a step, and that those objections have been pointed out by several of your Lordship's predecessors.

It must not be forgotten that the despatches containing those objections were addressed to Governors of colonies where Houses of Assembly were in existence.

The difficulties in Barbadoes have been set at rest by the appointment of the Executive Committee which was established during my tenure of office there. In the Bahamas Unofficial Members are still seated at the Executive Council table.

If your Lordship should desire to make any such concession in the case of Hongkong, it would undoubtedly be a very popular, and I do not think an altogether impolitic concession.

If this concession were accompanied by an acquiescence in my suggestion that until the present financial crisis is at an end the extra £20,000 for Military Contribution might, from the 1st January, 1894, be paid in dollars at the rate in force when it was levied, I do not think that in future your Lordship's department would be troubled by any such petitions as the one I now have the honour to forward for your consideration.

I annex for your Lordship's information a "leader" from the *North China Herald* of the 25th May on the "Petition of the Hongkong Ratepayers," which appears to be a very temperate and sensible criticism of the contents of that document.—I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

WILLIAM ROBINSON.

P.S.—The letters from the Honourables J. J. Keswick and E. R. Belilios were received by me after I had drafted this despatch.

W. R.

His Lordship the Marquess of Ripon, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c., &c., &c., Downing Street, London.

LORD RIPON TO THE GOVERNOR.

Downing Street,
23rd August, 1894.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 133 of the 5th of June last enclosing a petition addressed to the House of Commons by various residents at Hongkong praying for an amendment of the constitution of the colony.

2.—This petition was forwarded to you by Mr. Whitehead, Member of the Legislative Council, and though, among his colleagues in the Council, Mr. Keswick and Mr. Belilios have refused to sign it, it bears the signatures of Mr. Chater and Dr. Ho Kai, both Members of the Council, of Mr. Jackson, Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and of other leading residents. I am therefore bound to assume that it is the matured conviction of at least a considerable proportion of the most influential members of the community that constitutional changes are desirable at Hongkong and that for the present Crown colony system should be substituted some measure of self-government. It is my duty to examine the arguments which have been brought forward, with care and attention; and I should be wanting in courtesy if I did not give a full answer to a petition, which is far reaching in its scope, and which has been strongly supported.

3.—The petitioners have addressed themselves to the House of Commons, as they have of course every right to do. From this it is natural to infer that they consider that they have grounds for discontent, which the Secretary of State is unwilling or unable to remove, and that they wish to emphasise in a suitable and reasonable manner the objections which they feel to the existing system.

4.—They ask that, subject to Imperial checks and safeguards, they may be granted—

- (a) "The free election of representatives of British nationality in the Legislative Council of the colony."
- (b) "A majority in the Council of such elected representatives."
- (c) "Perfect freedom of debate for the Official Members with power to vote according to their conscientious convictions."
- (d) "Complete control in the Council over local expenditure."
- (e) "The management of local affairs."
- (f) "A consultative voice in questions of an Imperial character."

They quote the colonies of Malta, Cyprus, Mauritius, and British Honduras as enjoying more liberal forms of government than that under which they are themselves living at Hongkong. They lay stress upon the commercial energy which has raised the colony to its present position of importance. They claim "the common right of Englishmen to manage their local affairs and control the expenditure of the colony where Imperial considerations are not involved."

5.—Hongkong, when 53 years ago it became a British possession, was inhabited, I understand, by some 7,000 to 12,000 Chinese squatters and fishermen. According to the census of 1891 the population, in round numbers, amounted to 221,400, of whom 211,000, or more than nine-tenths, were Chinese. The Europeans and Americans numbered 8,500, and nationalities other than Europeans, Americans, and Chinese, 1,900. The census further analyses, as follows, the European and American population.

Out of the total of 8,500, the resident civil population amounted only to 4,200, the British military and naval forces numbered 2,900, and the remaining 1,400 represented merchant seamen, police, and others.

Of the 4,200 individuals, who constituted the European and American civil population, 1,450 only were returned as British. Of this number not more than 800 were adult males, and therefore presumably not more than 800 of them would be entitled to vote.

6.—I shall revert to these figures shortly in connection with the question of popular representation. Meanwhile it may be deduced from them that under the existing form of government the population of Hongkong has in half a century increased (say) twenty fold which is *prima facie* evidence, as you suggest in your despatch, that the colony has been well governed. But a further deduction has also to be made,

and that is that under the protection of the British Government Hongkong has become rather a Chinese than an European community; and the fact that the Chinese have settled in the island in such large numbers has not only been one main element in its prosperity, but also the most practical and irrefutable evidence that the government, under which a politically timid race such as the Chinese have shown every desire to live, must have at least possessed some measure of strength and of justice. How far Hongkong is a Chinese settlement, how far the Chinese have paid the taxes and contributed to the trade, is touched upon in Mr. Lockhart's excellent memorandum which accompanies your despatch. He is clearly of opinion also that the tendency is for the trade of the colony to pass more and more into Chinese hands.

I cordially welcome what is said in the petition as to the skill and energy of the British merchants who have been or still are residents in Hongkong, and I can testify with pleasure to their public spirit. But the fact remains that the overwhelming mass of the community are Chinese, that they have thriven under a certain form of government and that in any scheme involving a change of administration their wishes should be consulted and their interests carefully watched and guarded.

7.—The communities with which Hongkong is in the petition unfavourably contrasted, as regards its mode of government, are Malta, Cyprus, Mauritius, and British Honduras. Hongkong, it seems to me, differs from all of these four dependencies of the British Crown alike in degree and in kind. It is smaller than any of them, it has no history or traditions, no record of old settlement or of political usages and constitutional rights. It has practically no indigenous population, and, if I understand right, it has few life-long residents, whether European or Chinese.

8.—It is perhaps a fair account of Hongkong and its fortunes as a British colony, to say that 50 years ago it was taken by and for the British Crown to serve Imperial purposes, and to safeguard British trade in the Far East.

Holding a commanding position at the mouth of the Canton river, endowed by nature with a fine harbour, which has been carefully kept as a free port, like the sister Crown colony of the Straits Settlements, strongly protected by an Imperial garrison and British ships of war, it has owed its prosperity to these advantages, as well as to the policy of the Imperial Government, and to the fact that, being strongly guarded, it has attracted a large Chinese population who have found that under British rule their lives and their property have been safe.

I should be inclined to judge not merely that it has prospered as a Crown colony, but that it has prospered in great measure because it has been a Crown colony.

9.—It may, however, be contended that while the Crown colony system was suited to the infancy of the colony, it is now time that a larger measure of self-government should be conceded.

I therefore propose very shortly to examine the separate points as to which the petitioners suggest that some concession should be made.

10.—They ask in the first place for "the free election of representatives of British nationality in the Legislative Council of the colony."

The words are somewhat ambiguous. They may mean that the voters should be of any nationality, European, American, Asiatic, or Chinese, provided that the representatives for whom they vote are of British nationality. The term British nationality again may be taken to mean either British subjects of all nationalities or simply persons who have been born or are the children of those who have been born in the United Kingdom. I assume, however, that what the words are intended to convey is that the English, Scotch, and Irish in Hongkong should elect representatives of themselves to the Legislative Council. If this is the meaning then it is obvious from the figures which have been given above that considerably more than nine-tenths of the population will be entirely excluded from the franchise, that Europeans who are not of the category described and Americans will be excluded as well as Chinese, and that among those British residents who alone will be, it is

presumed, entitled to vote, the civil element, some proportion of which moreover consists of Government officials, will be swamped by the military and naval element.

It may be said that the naval and military forces should be debarred from voting on the ground that they are not resident in the colony, but the same objection would apply also, though possibly in a lesser degree, to the civil population. Indeed, over and above any other arguments which can be urged against representative government in Hongkong, it appears to me that the transient character of the population is by itself a serious obstacle.

11.—The second claim is the complement or rather the extension of the first. The petitioners ask not only that there shall be elected representatives in the Council, but that there shall be a majority of such representatives, in other words that, at any rate as regards legislation, the power shall be vested in a very small section of the population, and that more than nine-tenths of it shall be controlled by representatives of the small remainder.

12.—The third demand is that the Official Members shall be allowed to speak and vote as they please. It is a demand which is familiar in the case of Crown colonies, but only one answer can be given to it, viz., that the paid servants of the Government cannot be left free to oppose the Government. I should be surprised to learn that the Officials themselves wished to be given this freedom.

It is in fact not peculiar to the Crown colony system; it is of the essence of all administration that the paid supporters or components of a government should either vote for and when necessary speak for the settled policy of the government or else resign their places.

13.—The fourth and fifth claims are to the effect that the Council, or rather the elected majority in the Council, should have complete control over local expenditure and the management of local affairs.

There is point no doubt in these contentions, in that the municipal institutions, which are to be found in Ceylon and the Straits Settlements, do not exist in Hongkong, but the difficulty at Hongkong is and must be to draw a line between matters which might be entrusted to a municipal council and the business which must be reserved for the Colonial Government. In saying this I am aware that possibly or even probably a municipality would not meet the aspirations of the petitioners, and that they may place a wider construction upon the terms "local expenditure" and "local affairs" than I have placed upon them.

14.—One of the difficulties with which I am met in dealing with this petition arises from the fact that the words employed require to be more accurately defined before their meaning and the intention with which they are used can be fully gauged. This criticism especially applies to the last in the list of the petitioners' claims, viz., that they should be given a consultative voice in questions of an Imperial character. This sentence seems to point to some kind of Imperial Federation, and it is possibly written with reference to the military contribution question which has not been without difficulty in various colonies, including Hongkong. The subject raised is so wide and so vague that it would be useless to attempt to discuss it. The question of a general remodeling of the colonial system of Great Britain—for it would probably amount to no less—as it would necessarily become part of any scheme for a federation of the Empire is a most interesting question; but one of too wide and far reaching a scope to be dealt with in regard to a single case alone. But I may state simply that under the existing system when questions arise which concern the various colonies, it has been the endeavour of my predecessors in office, and it is my own earnest endeavour, that the claims, the interests, and even the prejudices of each colony shall be adequately set forth, and fully and fairly considered.

15.—To sum up, the petitioners ask nominally that Hongkong should be given self-government and an elective system. In my opinion the place and its circumstances are wholly unsuited for what is proposed.

An Imperial station with great Imperial interests, on the borders of a foreign land, the

nucleus of wide reaching British interests in the Far East, must, it appears to me, be kept under Imperial protection and under Imperial control.

In saying this much I am assuming that the self-government would be worthy of the name, and that the elective system would include all ranks of the community, but this is not what the petition demands. Those who framed it and signed it would, I gather, desire to place the power in the hands of a select few, and to constitute a small oligarchy, restricted by the lines of race. To any such change I am opposed. I consider that the well-being of the large majority of the inhabitants is more likely to be safeguarded by the Crown colony system, under which, as far as possible, no distinction is made of rank or race, than by representation which would leave the bulk of the population wholly unrepresented.

I can therefore hold out no hope that Hongkong will cease to be a Crown colony.

16.—It remains to consider whether any step can be taken which, while not interfering with the Crown colony system, would slightly modify the existing constitution in the direction in which the petition points.

There appear to be three practical suggestions which are worthy of consideration—

- (a) Increasing the number of the Unofficial Members in the Legislative Council.
- (b) Introducing an Unofficial element into the Executive Council.
- (c) Creating a Municipal Council.

17.—As regards the first of these three points, I am not inclined to add to the number of the Unofficial Members without at the same time increasing also the number of Official Members, for in a Crown Colony there must be a very distinct preponderance on the Official side, and that the natural result of evenly balancing the numbers of Officials and Unofficials is friction and irritation.

With this proviso, there is, as far as I can judge, no strong objection to increasing the numbers of the Council, except that for practical working purposes the number is already sufficiently large. If, however, an addition is made, it is difficult on equitable grounds to resist the conclusion that another Chinese representative should be appointed. On the other hand, this is contrary to the wishes of the petitioners as far as I understand them; and Mr. Keswick who, in his interesting and temperate letter, which is enclosed in your despatch, advocates the appointment of an additional Unofficial Member to the Legislative Council, strongly deprecates the addition to the Legislative Council of a second representative of the Chinese.

The balance of argument therefore appears to be against any change in the present number and composition of the Legislative Council.

18.—The second suggestion is that an Unofficial Member should be appointed to the Executive Council. The suggestion is made by Mr. Keswick, and you state in your despatch that you have personally no objection to it, and that the concession would be very popular and not altogether impolitic.

I can well realise that the addition of a gentleman of high standing and great local experience would be a gain to the Executive Council, and I shall be prepared to sanction the proposal if you still recommend it after further considering the following points.

In none of the three Eastern colonies at the present time is there any unofficial element in the Executive Council, and I am not clear that the step would in all cases be actively beneficial, whereas I am quite clear that the existing system has on the whole worked well, and that therefore there is no strong reason for disturbing it.

In the next place I note that Mr. Keswick proposes that the unofficial member should be of English birth. It must, however, be taken into consideration that it would be invidious and inequitable to lay down that Chinese subjects of the Queen shall be debarred from appointment to the Executive Council, and therefore the possibility of the appointment being hereafter filled by a Chinese gentleman must be reckoned with.

In the third place, you state that practically unofficial assistance in the Executive Council "could always be obtained, if the *status quo* were maintained" and you add that you "in-

variably consult the Unofficial Members before bringing into Council measures of purely local interest." There is therefore not likely to be much practical gain from the formal appointment of an Unofficial Member to the Executive Council.

It has occurred to me that possibly, instead of making any such appointment, some understanding might be come to that in the case of discussion of specified local subjects, at any rate so long as there is no municipality in existence at Hongkong, one or more Unofficial Members should be summoned to take part in the proceedings of the Executive Council, without giving them seats on the Council for all purposes. This is a point on which I shall be glad to have your opinion.

18.—With regard to the institution of a municipal council, I frankly say that I should like to see one established at Hongkong. But there appear to be two practical difficulties in the way. The first is the present crisis. I am not prepared to sanction any important change of administration until the future is tolerably clear and until the necessary measures for protecting the health of the colony have been finally decided upon and brought into operation. Then, in a clear field, it may be possible to create a municipal body with some prospect of success.

The second difficulty, to which allusion has already been made, is that of separating municipal matters. I am not confident that that difficulty can be overcome, nor am I confident that a municipality would be welcome to and work harmoniously with the military authorities. Still it is possible that the Sanitary Board might be developed into a satisfactory Municipal Council controlling all or some of the revenue which is now derived from rates. Whether any scheme of the kind is feasible I would ask you carefully to consider at your leisure, and in the meantime you are liberty, if you see occasion to do so, to give publicity to this despatch. —I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

RIPON.

Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

FROM MR. CHAMBERLAIN TO THE GOVERNOR.
Downing Street,
29th May, 1896.

Sir.—I have had under my consideration the correspondence which has passed in consequence of the petition for an amendment of the constitution of Hongkong, which was addressed to the House of Commons in the year 1894 and on which my predecessor had not given a final decision before he left office.

2.—I should have been glad to be able to communicate with you on the subject at an earlier date, but, as you are aware, the pressure of business at this Department has been exceptional for some time past.

3.—In his despatch of the 23rd of August, 1894, Lord Ripon stated that he could hold out no hope that Hongkong will cease to be a Crown colony. Neither can I hold out any such hope, for I conceive that in the case of Hongkong, representative Government on whatever form of franchise it might be based, and with whatever supposed safeguards as to the executive power, would be wholly out of place.

4.—There remain two practical points to be decided. The first is whether the present constitution of the Legislative Council should be in any way modified. The second is whether an unofficial element should be introduced into the Executive Council.

5.—On the first of these two points my view is as follows.—I gather that the Legislative Council, as at present constituted, is large enough for practical purposes, and that an increase to its numbers is hardly likely to add to its efficiency to any appreciable extent. As Hongkong is to remain a Crown colony, no useful purpose would be served, but on the contrary a considerable amount of needless irritation would be caused by balancing evenly the unofficial members and the officials. But having regard to the fact that, in the absence of the Governor, the Officer Commanding the Troops will in future administer the Government, I consider that it would be of advantage that he should be a member of the Legislative Council, and if he is added to it, I am willing

to add one unofficial member to the unofficial bench. Who the latter should be and what special interest, if any, he should represent, I leave to the Government to determine. I may observe, however, that the Chinese community is the element which is least represented while it is also far the most numerous, and that I should regard as valuable any step which tended to attach them more closely to the British connection, and to increase their practical interest in public affairs.

6.—As regards the second point, namely, whether or not an unofficial element should be introduced into the Executive Council, I would observe that, whilst most of the larger Crown colonies possess one or more Municipal Councils, subordinate to the Colonial Government, in Hongkong there is no such institution. Moreover, it seems impracticable to alter this state of things, for this reason among others: that the colony and the municipality would be in great measure co-extensive, and it would be almost impossible to draw the line between colonial and municipal matters.

This being so, in my opinion the most practical course is to recognise that the Colonial Government is discharging municipal duties, and that on that account representatives of the citizens may fairly be given a place on the Executive.

7.—I therefore propose that the Executive Council shall in future include two unofficial members to be selected at the discretion of the Governor. It is obviously desirable that they should, as a rule, be chosen from among the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, and the choice should, and no doubt will be, inspired by consideration of personal merit, and have no reference to the particular class or race to which the persons chosen belong.

8.—You will receive in due course amended Royal Instructions and in the meantime this despatch may be made public, with an intimation that the subject has been considered from every point of view and that my decision is to be regarded as final.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c. &c.

THE DISPLACEMENT OF BRITISH GOODS.

THE SHIPPING CONFERENCE ONE OF THE CAUSES.

The following report was laid on the table of the Legislative Council on 8th July:—

1.—The Committee, appointed by His Excellency the Governor, in response to an inquiry from the Secretary of State asking whether there had been any and what displacement of British goods in this market, held their first sitting on the 29th February, and have since met thirteen times and taken the evidence of fourteen witnesses, which evidence has been supplemented by information gathered by the Secretary. A careful consideration of the whole has enabled the Committee to arrive at the conclusions given hereunder.

2.—At the outset the Committee were confronted with the difficulty that Hongkong being a free port, precise returns of trade cannot be made up in this colony owing to the absence of any statistics of imports and exports (with the single exception of opium). The Committee have therefore limited their investigations to ascertaining where there has been displacement of British goods in this market by foreign manufactures, to what extent this displacement has been effected, and to what causes it has been due.

3.—It is apparent from the evidence that the displacement of British goods has been going on steadily for some years, but it has not been on a strikingly large scale nor have many great staples been very seriously affected. There are, however, in which the British manufacture has been entirely ousted by foreign goods, as in the cases of Llama braids and aniline dyes, while others, such as Spanish stripes and broad cloths, have been in great measure replaced by similar goods imported from Germany.

4.—In other cases, again, there have been attempts to cut into British trade in smaller wares, sometimes by foreign imitations, with, however, often only a qualified or temporary

success. These articles were represented by hosiery, lamps, paper, umbrellas, rubber shoes, soaps, biscuits, beer, locks, files, cutlery, etc., in which Germany and Japan are the principal competitors with England.

5.—There has been a serious falling off in the imports of metals from Great Britain, notably in that of yellow metal, which formerly was exclusively imported from thence. It is estimated that only about half the import of this metal now comes from British makers, the inferior German metal being greatly aided by the lower rate of freight payable from German ports. The same remarks apply to the trade in bar iron, nail rod, and scrap iron, most of which is now imported from Belgium, the productions of which country are helped by cheaper cost of production and lower freights from Antwerp. Pig lead, which formerly was imported from England and Germany, now comes almost exclusively from Australia on account of lower cost of production.

The Committee are conscious it may be objected to the foregoing paragraph that a portion of the evidence does not bear out the statement that dead weight cargo shipped direct from Great Britain arrives here at a disadvantage in freight compared with that shipped from Continental ports. The Committee were constrained, nevertheless, to accept the balance of evidence, which unmistakably points to the conclusion arrived at; and, to more clearly elucidate the point, some tabulated examples of actual shipments have been obtained.

6.—The trade in arms and ammunition and gunpowder is monopolised by Continental manufacturers, owing to the much cheaper prices at which they can lay them down on this market.

7.—Certain branches of trade, such as those in wire nails and window glass, have always been in Belgian hands, the prices charged being apparently beyond the competition of all other producers. Not so, however, the trade in candles, which has been completely wrested from England by Belgian makers, this being to a great extent due to superior packing.

8.—The competition of Japan is only just commencing, but promises to prove serious later on. Already the Japanese have secured almost a monopoly of the trade in cotton waste, washing soda, and sulphuric acid; they are competing in cotton goods, paper, ship's lamps, and cheap substitutes for cretonnes, blankets, towels, soaps, etc. Among other items, they are exporting really well made cotton half hose fifty per cent. below the cost of similar goods from Germany; and their cement, though inferior in quality, is cheaper than any European cement that can be imported, competing even with the local product, which has the advantage of paying no freight or marine insurance.

9.—The causes to which the displacement of British goods in this market are to be assigned may be briefly stated:—

- 1.—Lower cost of production of rival foreign goods.
- 2.—Disinclination of British manufacturers to study taste of consumer.
- 3.—The steadily falling value of silver since 1873.
- 4.—Lower freights outwards from foreign as compared with British ports.
- 5.—Cheaper railway transit to foreign ports of shipment.

The last two named causes apply more especially to metals and heavy goods, and No. 4, the Committee regret to say, is due to the action of the Shipping Conference (consisting chiefly of British steamship owners), which, while maintaining freights from British ports, carry cargo at a much lower rate from Continental and American ports, thus giving foreign manufactures a virtual subsidy in their competition with British products.

In this connection the Committee wish to make special reference to the advantages conferred on American cotton piece goods in the China market by the rates of freight charged by the Conference steamers from New York to Hongkong and Shanghai, which average from 25s. to 30s. per ton as compared with 57s. 6d. from London and Liverpool outwards. The same remarks apply to the shipment of machinery from the United States to China, the freight for which is about 40 per cent. lower than that from British ports.

In considering this phase of the subject the question seems to arise how far the Imperial Government would be justified in requiring of the Conference a modification of their tariff before continuing a subsidy or other support to any shipping company which is a party to a compact that places British manufacturers at a disadvantage with foreign rivals.

10.—The Committee, moreover, feel bound to record their conviction that several of the witnesses were indisposed to speak freely on this subject of the Shipping Conference; and they are of opinion that it is a question of such paramount importance to British trade that it might fittingly form the subject of a searching investigation on the part of the home Government.

11.—The Committee are satisfied that, apart from this preference to foreign cargo, shown by Conference steamers, the competition encountered by British goods is for the most part a fair business competition. There are occasional infringements of British trade marks and more frequent imitations of British goods by Continental makers, but in the majority of cases the imitation is sold as such on its merits, and in some instances the foreign producers strike out new lines for themselves, and from small beginnings evolve a considerable trade. While the British merchant or agent in Hongkong appears to be well on the alert, and to very efficiently represent the home manufacturer, the latter seems too often reluctant to alter his styles and methods, does not care to make a present sacrifice for future profit, and is apt to neglect small openings for a new trade. This is in marked contrast to the untiring efforts of foreign makers to study the market and adapt their goods to the requirements of the consumer.

12.—Turning to a consideration of the transit trade of the colony, which the Committee take to mean the transshipment of goods here for the neighbouring countries, Japan, Siam, Indo-China, the Philippines, Netherlands Indies, etc., this trade exhibits a tendency to increase on the whole, with the present exception of that with Indo-China, which has latterly shown a decline. This decline is due to the high preferential duties recently imposed by our French neighbours, the effects of which are visible in the falling off in the export of yarns and British manufactured goods to Saigon and Tonkin.

13.—When the provisions of the new treaty with Japan come into force a most serious decline is expected to ensue in the export hence of refined sugar to that country under the revised tariff, and it is feared that this, the chief industry of the colony, which has already been very adversely affected, may perhaps be permanently injured. Had the Hongkong Government been consulted before the alteration of the tariff was decided upon, it is probable some adjustment of the duties less unfavourable to this colony might have been arrived at, and this important industry saved the check it must presently meet.

14.—Whilst the words "the Transit trade of Hongkong" are perhaps not intended to directly include the conduct of trade with the interior of China, yet the Committee feel it within the scope of their inquiry to point out here that this transit trade would be largely benefited and increased, were the transit pass system allowed by the native authorities in South China to work in accordance with the treaty requirements. Unfortunately, ever since the signature of the Treaty of Tientsin, Article XXVIII, of which confers this transit pass privilege on British subjects, the officials in South China have steadfastly and persistently sought to render it a dead letter, and so far their success has been most complete. If the transit pass system be enforced, and the inland waterways of the Two Kwang provinces be opened to foreign trade and steamer navigation, as the result of negotiations now proceeding, there is every reason to believe that a marked increase in British trade will soon be apparent.

15.—Another subject not perhaps strictly within the scope of the present inquiry, but which has come before the Committee incidentally, and is closely associated with the British shipping trade, is that of the impediments placed in the way of British ships obtaining their fair share of the Chinese passenger traffic at certain of the neighbouring outports. This is due to their having to conform strictly

to the regulations of the Chinese Passengers' Act, 1855, whereas foreign steamers are subject to no such regulations, and can in consequence carry double, or treble, the number of passengers permitted under the Act to a British vessel. Much lucrative trade is thus completely closed to British ships. The Committee therefore deprecate further legislation in the direction of making these passenger regulations more stringent, as the effect can only be to still more heavily handicap British tonnage on the China coast and lead to its supersession by Continental steamers.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Chairman.

W. C. H. HASTINGS.

N. J. EDE.

CHANTREY INCHBALD.

Hongkong, 22nd June, 1896.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

A GLOOMY PROSPECT.

THE GROWTH OF THE CITY TO BE STOPPED BY SCARCITY OF WATER.

An exhaustive report on the Water Supply of the City of Victoria and Hill District by the Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, was laid on the table at the last meeting of the Legislative Council. The first portion of the report is historical and descriptive and much of it is of a technical character. The latter part of the report, slightly condensed, is as follows:—

ADDITIONAL WORKS NECESSARY TO MEET PRESENT REQUIREMENTS.

Taking the present requirements for all purposes at 15 gallons per head per diem and the population supplied at 200,000 persons, the average daily quantity required for distribution is 3,000,000 gallons.

The existing works at Pokfooloom and Taitam can be relied upon to supply an average of 2,700,000 gallons per diem, of which 2,400,000 gallons can be efficiently filtered with the existing filter beds.

It will therefore be seen that—(a) Farther works are necessary to render an additional average daily supply of 300,000 gallons of water available. (b) Further provision for the filtration of 600,000 gallons of water per diem is required. (c) The construction in the Hill District of a service reservoir of 400,000 gallons capacity is required.

On the completion of the works now in hand at Taitam, the capacity of the reservoir will be increased to 390 million gallons, making the total storage available at Pokfooloom and Taitam 458 million gallons, but, as shown in paragraph No. 106, the catchment areas can only be relied upon during the months of May to August to yield 692 million gallons.

Now, if during that period an average daily quantity of 3 million gallons be abstracted, or a total of 369 million gallons, there is only a balance of 323 million gallons for storage which, added to the yield of the catchment areas during the months of September to April inclusive, viz., 290 million gallons, gives the total available for distribution during the months of September to April inclusive as 613 million gallons, or an average daily quantity of only 2,500,000 gallons.

It is therefore necessary to increase the catchment area or to construct additional storage reservoirs for impounding water during the years of heavy rainfall for distribution during those of comparatively small rainfall.

A catchwater contouring the hillside on the west of the Taitam Valley 3,100 lineal yards in length and discharging into the present reservoir will intercept a catchment area of 186 acres. This would increase the available supply during the months of May to August inclusive by 61 million gallons, and during the months of September to April inclusive by 25 million gallons.

A catchwater contouring the hillside on the east side of the Little Hongkong Valley and discharging into the valley near the Wongneichong Gap would, with suitable reservoir accommodation at this point, increase the available daily supply during the year by 300,000 gallons.

A suitable site exists for the construction of a reservoir in the valley near the Wongneichong Gap by the construction of a dam across the valley having a maximum height of about 50 feet and a length of about 270 feet; the capacity of this reservoir would be 27 million gallons.

Some minor alterations and extensions to the Pokfooloom conduit will be required with a view to increasing its discharging capacity and thus enabling full advantage being taken during the months of May to August inclusive of the yield of the Pokfooloom reservoir catchment area and the streams intercepted by the conduit.

With these additional works an additional supply of 193 million gallons per annum will be obtained.

The following statement shows the total supply obtainable on the completion of the foregoing works:—

Valley.	Catchment area, acres.	Yield, May to August, gallons.	Yield, September to April, gallons.	Total, gallons.
Pokfooloom	416	207,000,000	62,000,000	269,000,000
Taitam	680	339,000,000	102,000,000	441,000,000
Taitam Catchwater East	220	72,000,000	30,000,000	102,000,000
Taitam Catchwater West	186	61,000,000	25,000,000	86,000,000
Streams intercepted by conduit		74,000,000	96,000,000	170,000,000
Wongneichong Gap	100	50,000,000	15,000,000	65,000,000
Catchwater	90	30,000,000	12,000,000	42,000,000
		833,000,000	342,000,000	1,175,000,000

Average supply per diem = $\frac{1,175,000,000}{365} = 3,200,000$ gallons, say, storage required = $3,200,000$ by 242 less the yield of the catchment areas during the months of September to April inclusive (774 millions minus 342 millions) viz., 432 million gallons. The storage capacity of the reservoirs at Pokfooloom and Taitam on the completion of the works now in hand will amount to 458 million gallons and will therefore be sufficient to secure a constant water supply at the rate of 3,200,000 gallons per diem.

PARTICULARS OF PROPOSED WORKS TO MEET PRESENT REQUIREMENTS.

Proposed Catchwater Taitam Valley.—The catchwater contouring the hillside on the west of the Taitam Valley to be constructed of lime concrete rendered in cement laid at a uniform gradient of 1 in 100 and to have a maximum discharging capacity of 2 million gallons per hour.

It will be necessary to convey the water intercepted by this catchwater across the ravine immediately south of the present Taitam reservoir by cast iron pipes 14 inches in diameter. This work is shown on drawing No. 7, and the estimated cost is \$40,000.

Proposed Catchwater Reservoir near Wongneichong Gap.—The catchwater contouring the hillside on the south of Wongneichong Gap to be of similar construction to one above described and to have a maximum discharging capacity of one million gallons per hour.

This catchwater will discharge into a reservoir to be constructed near Wongneichong Gap. From this reservoir the water will be conveyed by a cast iron main 5 inches in diameter to the Taitam conduit.

The estimated cost of these works is \$83,000.

Proposed Filter Beds.—Additional provision for the filtration of 1 million gallons of water per diem is proposed to be provided by the construction of filter beds on the hillside below the Bowen Road.

These filter beds are three in number and have a combined area of 1,700 square yards; in connection with them a covered service reservoir should be constructed having a capacity of 600,000 gallons.

A cast iron main will connect this reservoir with the existing distribution system and service reservoir at Wanchai now in course of construction.

The estimated cost of these works is \$68,000.

Should a supply of water be required above the Bowen Road, I would remark that the project for the construction of filter beds immediately below Bowen Road furnishes facilities for actuating a small hydraulic motor.

Proposed Reservoir at the Peak.—A suitable site for the construction of a covered service reservoir of a capacity of 400,000 gallons exists immediately east of "The Eyrie". This reservoir would be 16 feet in depth with a top water level of 1,751 feet above Ordnance Datum.

Estimated cost \$20,000.

Estimated Cost of Works immediately required.—The following tabular statement gives the estimated cost of works immediately required:

Description of Work.	Amount.
Improvements Pokfooloom Conduit	\$10,000
New Mains in the City and Repairs to No. 2 Tank	39,000
Catchwater West of Taitam Valley	40,000
Reservoir and Catchwater Wongneichong Gap	83,000
Filter Beds and Service Reservoir	68,000
Service Reservoir Peak	20,000

Total \$260,000

As it is of the utmost importance both on sanitary and general grounds that no time should be lost in providing the City and Hill District with an adequate and constant water supply, I would urge the necessity of at once taking steps to carry out the foregoing works.

In the consideration of this matter it must not be lost sight of that the Taitam project of 1873 was for the supply of water to 92,000 persons, at the rate of 13.57 gallons per head, giving a total daily supply of 1,248,000 gallons, a result which was more than realised during the unprecedented dry year of 1895. Unfortunately, the works were not completed till 1889, by which time the population had increased to upwards of 170,000.

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

It is estimated that the population of the City and Hill Districts is increasing at the rate of 5,000 per annum.

If this rate be maintained, the rate of consumption of water being taken at 15 gallons per head per diem, the annual increase of water required for distribution will be 27,375,000 gallons, or at the rate of 75,000 gallons per diem.

The existing works with the proposed extensions are estimated to yield a minimum of 3,200,000 gallons per diem or sufficient for a population of 213,000, so that by the end of 1899 it is probable that the requirements of the City and Hill Districts will have outgrown the supply obtainable from these works during years of comparatively small rainfall.

As the construction of works of the nature required to meet this increased demand for water will occupy some time, I have considered projects for still further increasing the present water supply, and now propose to briefly describe what appears to be the best practical solution of this question.

It must be remembered that the sites available for reservoirs are very few and, owing to the steepness and narrowness of the valleys, do not admit of the construction of extensive impounding reservoirs.

With a view to ascertaining the most suitable sites for the construction of reservoirs, detail surveys have been made in the Pokfooloom and Taitam valleys, and the following projects are submitted.

PARTICULARS OF PROPOSED WORKS TO MEET FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

Pokfooloom Valley.

Proposed Reservoir.—In the Pokfooloom Valley a suitable site exists below the present reservoir for the construction of a reservoir having a capacity of 78 million gallons and catchment area including that of the present reservoir of 500 acres.

This reservoir would be formed by the erection of a concrete and masonry dam across the ravine a little above the existing bridge on the Aberdeen Road.

The top water level would be 480 feet above Ordnance Datum, and the maximum depth of water below overflow level 40 feet.

The valve tower and outlet works are situated in the north-west corner, the level of the lowest draw-off being 450 feet above Ordnance Datum. A wash-out pipe only is provided through the dam.

The waste weir is located on solid ground at the south-eastern extremity of the dam and has a total length of 110 feet, which is ample with an overflow of 4 feet 6 inches to discharge the

water flowing from the catchment area during such extraordinary rainfalls as the one occurring in 1889.

The overflow weir and bye-wash channel to be constructed of masonry and cement concrete throughout.

The construction of this reservoir will necessitate the raising of the Aberdeen Road skirting its western bank and the diversion of the road and portions of Farm Lots 18 and 19 to be obtained from the area of the reservoir, the banks of which are to be formed as shown on Drawing No. 4, the western bank being composed of filled in material it is proposed to pitch with stone.

The construction of this reservoir will further to some extent encroach on Rural Building Lot No. 51 and Farm Lots Nos. 18 and 19 and involve the destruction of the small village of Pokfoolum.

Proposed Main.—The elevation of the site does not admit of the discharge of the water from the proposed reservoir into the existing Pokfoolum conduit. It is therefore proposed to provide for the water being conveyed in a cast iron main 12 inches in diameter contouring the hillside on the west of the Pokfoolum Road till it reaches the northern boundary of the Chinese Christian Cemetery. From this point the main to be reduced to 10 inches in diameter and follow the line of the Pokfoolum Road as far as Shektongtsui Nullah, where it enters Crown land and terminates in the proposed filter beds situated near the Bonham Road pumping station.

This main will be capable of discharging 1½ million gallons per 24 hours.

It is also proposed to connect the existing outlet pipe from the Pokfoolum reservoir to this main and extend the latter to join the conduit near the present filter beds. In case of necessity this main will be available for the purpose of conveying water from the existing reservoir to the present filter beds at the rate of from 600,000 to 1 million gallons per twenty-four hours, according to the level of the water in the reservoir.

Proposed Filter Beds.—The proposed filter beds in connection with this project are shown on Drawing No. 2; they are three in number, having a combined area of 1,666 square yards and are arranged to discharge into a small service reservoir of a capacity of 250,000 gallons, which with the one now being constructed at Kennedytown will prevent the irregular action that would result from the variation in draw-off from the mains without such provision.

The top water level of the service reservoir is 251.5 feet above Ordnance Datum admitting of a direct communication being made with the distribution mains below the exhaust from the hydraulic motors without interfering with their action.

Estimate.—The estimated cost of this project is as follows:—

Construction of reservoir, including compensation and purchase of land	\$160,000
Cast iron main	55,000
Filter beds and reservoir	35,000
Total	\$250,000

The cost of the erection of pumping machinery with the necessary buildings for pumping the water from the reservoir into the existing conduit has, together with the annual charges connected with such a project, been considered, and I am of opinion that the laying of the cast iron main is preferable.

Increasing the Capacity of the Existing Reservoir.—The practicability of increasing the capacity of the present reservoir has also been considered, and I am of opinion that after the construction of the reservoir on the lower site this work might be undertaken by raising and strengthening the embankment.

The present outlet arrangements are unsatisfactory, the whole of the water being drawn off from near the bottom of the reservoir.

The project includes raising the embankment 11 feet and the overflow weir 10 feet, thus increasing the storage capacity from 68 million gallons to 91 million gallons and the improvement of the outlet works, so as to admit of the water being drawn off at different levels. As this involves the fixing of a stopping plate in the existing culvert, the present plate situated

in the valve tower being of insufficient strength to bear the increased pressure of water safely, the carrying out of this work will necessitate emptying the reservoir, which cannot be done without seriously interfering with the water supply to the City of Victoria and Hill Districts until after the lower reservoir and the project previously described has been completed. The estimated cost of this work is \$35,000.

The completion of the two foregoing projects providing for the storage of 169 million gallons in two reservoirs having a combined catchment area of 500 acres, will practically exhaust the means available within the Pokfoolum Valley for increasing the water supply.

Supply to be derived from Works in Pokfoolum Valley.—These works will secure a daily supply of 880,000 gallons, as compared with a daily supply of 540,000 gallons from the existing works, throughout the year.

The construction of a catchwater 6,000 feet in length contouring the hill on the western side of the Pokfoolum Valley at a level of 550 feet would intercept an additional catchment area of some 170 acres and would admit of a daily supply of 1 million gallons being obtained throughout the year. The estimated cost of this catchwater is \$18,000.

TAITAM VALLEY.

Proposed Reservoirs.—In the Taitam Valley detail surveys have been made of five sites, all of which are more or less suitable for the construction of reservoirs.

Two of these sites, Nos. 1 and 2, are situated above the existing reservoir and within its catchment area, the other three are situated lower down the valley, one of which, No. 3, is at a sufficient elevation to admit of water collected in a reservoir on it being discharged into the existing Taitam Tunnel.

Proposed Reservoir Site No. 1.—The proposed reservoir on site No. 1 would be formed by the construction of a masonry and concrete dam. This reservoir would have a capacity of 70 million gallons with a top level of 780 feet above Ordnance Datum, a catchment area of 220 acres and a maximum depth of 50 feet. The waste weir is situated at the north end of the dam and has a length of 80 feet. It is anticipated that the depth of water over this weir will not exceed 3 feet. The bye-wash channel will be constructed on solid ground and discharge into the valley below the dam. The outlet commencing in a suitable valve well will be carried through the main dam and discharge into the stream below it. Estimated cost \$140,000.

Proposed Reservoir Site No. 2.—The proposed reservoir on site No. 2 would be formed by the construction of a masonry and concrete dam. This reservoir would have a capacity of 40 million gallons with a top water level of 830 feet above Ordnance Datum, a catchment area of 60 acres which forms a portion of that of reservoir No. 1, and a maximum depth of 50 feet. The waste weir is situated in the centre of the dam, that portion being constructed of masonry and cement concrete throughout, and has a length of 20 feet. It is anticipated that the depth of water over this weir will not exceed 3 feet. The outlet arrangements will be similar to those described for reservoir on site No. 1. Estimated cost \$56,000.

The run-off from the catchment area of this reservoir during the months of May to August inclusive will not exceed 30 million gallons, but the total run-off from the catchment area of the reservoir on site No. 1 will be 109,800,000 gallons, and the 39 millions over and above that required to fill the reservoir on site No. 1 can be diverted by a short length of catchwater constructed along the eastern slope of its catchment area. No difficulty is therefore anticipated in practically filling these two reservoirs during the months of May to August inclusive from the catchment area available.

Proposed Reservoir on Site No. 3.—The proposed reservoir on site No. 3 situated immediately below the present waste weir of the Taitam reservoir would be formed by the construction of two masonry and concrete dams. This reservoir, which would practically form an extension of the existing Taitam reservoir, would have a capacity of 20 million gallons with a top water level of 498 feet above Ordnance Datum, and a maximum depth of 27 feet. The waste water would discharge over the top of the prin-

cipal dam, which has a length of 150 feet. It is anticipated that the depth of water over the weir will not exceed 4 feet. The outlet commencing in a suitable valve well will be carried through the easterly dam and discharge into the existing gauge basin at the entrance to the Taitam Tunnel. The construction of this reservoir will involve a diversion of the road to Taitam Tuk, the building of a new residence for the caretaker, and a new Police Station. Estimated cost \$60,000.

The completion of these works will practically exhaust the means available within the Taitam Valley for increasing the water supply unless recourse is had to pumping water from the lower levels.

TOTAL SUPPLY OBTAINABLE BY GRAVITATION FROM POKFOOLUM AND TAITAM.

The present storage capacity in the Pokfoolum Valley is 68 million gallons, and on the completion of the proposed reservoirs in the Taitam Valley the storage capacity in that valley will be 520 million gallons, making a total of 588 million gallons.

The storage capacity required to secure 3,200,000 gallons per diem is 432 million gallons; there would therefore be a surplus of 156 million gallons which would be available for storing water in wet years for use during dry years.

After considering the rainfall tables contained in the appendices, I am of opinion that this additional storage may be relied upon to increase the daily supply available by at least 300,000 gallons, bringing the total supply up to 3,500,000 gallons per diem, or equal to a supply of 15 gallons per head per diem to a population of 233,000 persons, or the estimated population in 1903.

Supplementing these works by the additions proposed in the Pokfoolum Valley, the supply from the several sources would be as follows:—

Valley.	Catchment area, acres.	Yield, May to August, gallons.	Yield, September to April, gallons.	Total, gallons.
Pokfoolum	500	249,000,000	74,000,000	323,000,000
Pokfoolum Catchwater	170	56,000,000	23,000,000	79,000,000
Taitam	680	339,000,000	102,000,000	441,000,000
Taitam Catchwater East	220	72,000,000	30,000,000	102,000,000
Taitam Catchwater West	186	61,000,000	25,000,000	86,000,000
Streams intercepted by conduit		71,000,000	96,000,000	170,000,000
Wangneichong Gap	100	50,000,000	15,000,000	65,000,000
Catchwater	90	30,000,000	12,000,000	42,000,000
		931,000,000	377,000,000	1,308,000,000

Average supply per diem = $\frac{1,308,000,000}{365} = 3,583,000$ gallons storage required = 3,583,000 by 242 less the yield of the catchment areas during the months of September to April inclusive (867,086,000 minus 377 millions), viz., 490,086,000 gallons. The storage capacity of the reservoirs will amount to 689 million gallons, leaving a balance of 199 million gallons, say, which may be relied upon to increase the daily supply to 4 million gallons.

This would be sufficient for a population of 266,000 persons, or the estimated population in 1910.

Though I have assumed that the rate of increase in the population of the City will be maintained for the next 10 years at the rate of 5,000 persons per annum, I am of opinion that, considering the limited area of the City and its present overcrowded condition, such a rate of increase should not be permitted and is not likely to occur.

In view of the recent improvements in Kowloon, it appears probable that the increase in the population of the colony will to a large extent be confined to that district, the water supply of which is entirely separate from that of the City of Victoria.

Should such, however, not be the case, a material increase in the water supply derived from the Taitam Valley may be obtained by the construction of the reservoirs on sites Nos. 4 and 5 and the water pumped up to the existing reservoir. The catchment areas of these reservoirs, exclusive of the portions intercepted by the existing and proposed catchwaters and present reservoir, are 260 acres and 250 acres respectively. As this project involves pumping, the material for forming a reliable

estimate of its cost are not at hand, and as it will probably be several years before such works will be undertaken, I merely place the outline of the project on record.

USE OF SEA WATER FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

During recent years many seaside towns have adopted a dual system of water supply, using sea water for watering the streets, flushing drains, fire service, &c.

In considering the foregoing, the practicability of adopting such a system for the City of Victoria has not been lost sight of, and though the use of sea water favours deposit in sewers, its adoption for street watering has advantages over the use of fresh water and may with advantage be used in comparatively level localities.

Any project for the utilisation of sea water for such purposes in the City of Victoria owing to the varying elevations of the built area, viz., from practically sea level to 600 feet above sea level, must necessarily involve the installation and maintenance of pumping machinery and the construction of service reservoirs in addition to those used for the water supplied for potable purposes.

It would further be necessary to lay throughout the City a separate system of distribution mains and hydrants.

The cost of such a project would not compare favourably with those gravitation projects put forward in this report, and, consequently, I am of opinion no such project should be entertained so long as a supply of fresh water sufficient for all purposes can be obtained at a reasonable cost by gravitation.

EXPENDITURE.

Expenditure.—The following is a summary of the expenditure on the water works for the City and Hill District since the year 1860.

1860 Mr. Rawling's Project	\$ 170,000
1866-71 Mr. Wilson's Project	225,937
1876 Pokfulam Conduit	62,191
1883-89 Taitam Project	1,237,474
1889 Pokfulam Filter Beds, &c.	37,431
1890-92 Distribution	164,024
1891 Peak Water Works	32,535
1893-95 Distribution Works	6,516
1895 Taitam Extension Works	37,453
Further Expenditure to complete works in hand	59,489

Total, \$2,053,000

Estimated expenditure on proposed works	—
Works immediately required	\$200,000
Additional reservoir at Pokfulam, &c.	250,000
Raising present reservoir embankment at Pokfulam	35,000
Catchwater Pokfulam	18,000
Reservoir Taitam Site No. 1	140,000
" " " 2	56,000
" " " 3	60,000

Total, \$819,000

From the foregoing it will be seen that the present works, though deficient in filter area, involved a capital expenditure of \$760,370 per million gallons supplied per diem. The capital expenditure per million gallons supplied per diem on the completion of the works immediately necessary will be \$722,812, and the capital expenditure per million gallons supplied per diem on the completion of the gravitation works proposed will be \$718,000.

It seems probable that when the works now in progress which are chargeable to the loan are completed, there will be a balance of \$300,000 to meet further expenditure on waterworks in the City and Hill District.

The annual revenue derived from the waterworks in the City and Hill District, after deducting the cost of maintenance, is estimated at not less than \$60,000, and there was at the end of 1895 a balance to the credit of the Water account (Section 16, Ordinance 16 of 1890), after crediting it with the expenditure on works chargeable to the loan, of \$105,272.07.

Under these circumstances, there appear to be ample funds available to meet the expenditure at present required, and the further expenditure proposed will be more than met by the annual balance accruing to the Water account.

From Japan papers we learn that the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha has decided to establish a branch at New York and that the manager, Mr. Iwahara Kameo, was to leave for his post on the 10th July.

FLOGGING IN VICTORIA GAOL.

The report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the question of flogging in Victoria Gaol was laid on the table at the last meeting of the Legislative Council. The Committee consisted of Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Puisne Judge, Hon. W. C. H. Hastings, and Dr. J. M. Atkinson.

The first part of the report deals with the rules relating to flogging, which are ambiguously expressed, and it is recommended that they be redrafted.

CASES OF PRISONERS 528 AND 704.

Paragraph 6 deals with these cases. The first and second sub-paragraphs enumerate the certificates connected with the case.

(i.) The original medical certificates given in the cases of prisoners Nos. 528 and 704 by the Gaol Surgeon and passing them as fit to receive the floggings to which they had been sentenced are appended and appear to be in order.

(ii.) In Appendix IV. will be found certified copies put in by Mr. Lethbridge of (a) the Medical Officer's report on passing these prisoners for labour; (b) their medical history; (c) the evidence taken before the second floggings were inflicted; and (d) extracts from the prison punishment book.

(iii.) Prisoner No. 528 was flogged with six strokes on 21st April after repeated refusal to labour. After the flogging he was relieved from work for four days and then placed on reduced light labour for a fortnight. He was subsequently put back to No. 1 hard labour, but refused to carry stones—an offence for which he was sentenced, after a joint inquiry by the Superintendent and a European Justice of Peace, to receive twenty-four strokes.

(iv.) There is no reason to think that the Medical Officer did not conscientiously believe that this prisoner was fit to receive the corporal punishment to which he was subjected; and we are satisfied that sufficient time had elapsed to allow the injurious effects of the first flogging to disappear before the second flogging was sanctioned; that every medical and surgical attention was paid that under existing arrangements could be paid after the prisoner had been flogged the second time; that his wounds were dressed upon his being discharged from gaol notwithstanding the contrary statement of the prisoner himself, and that the aggravated state of his wounds when he was admitted into the Tung Wa Hospital on 13th May might to some extent be due to his own acts after leaving the gaol.

(v.) As regards prisoner No. 704 who died on the 2nd June in the Gaol Hospital of septicæmia due to wounds caused by flogging we find that this prisoner was flogged on 18th May—a week after admission into gaol—with six strokes for repeated refusal to labour; that he was relieved from work for three days; that he was then put on No. 1 hard labour, which he refused to do; that on the 25th May he received twelve strokes, after enquiry by the Superintendent and a Chinese Visiting Justice, for such refusal, and that he was admitted to hospital on the 27th May, suffering from a gluteal abscess.

(vi.) We absolve the Medical Officers concerned in the treatment of this prisoner from blame for the fatal result of the case. We believe that the Medical Officer carefully satisfied himself to the best of his ability of the fitness of the prisoner to undergo a second flogging within a week of his first flogging, and that it was not within the prescience of the Medical Officer that either a gluteal abscess would form or that, upon its formation, blood poisoning would supervene. In our opinion the flogging was not the *causa proxima*, but merely the *causa remota* of the death of the prisoner.

(vii.) Whilst upon these two cases the Committee beg to direct attention to (a) the small percentage of gluteal abscesses resulting from a flogging; (b) the case of prisoner No. 704 being the only known instance of death supervening within a month of a flogging, which seems to point to another cause than that of the flogging as the cause of death; (c) the overcrowded state of the gaol hospital, which increases the chances of contagion and infection and predisposes especially to septic infection; (d) the fact that the Chinese prisoners lie on the floor of the hospital,

thus exposing themselves to greater chances of infection; and the want of expert attendants, which deprives the patients of skilled nursing.

THE GENERAL QUESTION OF FLOGGING.

(i.) Floggings may be ordered by Courts of Justice or by the Superintendent of the Gaol, or by him in conjunction with a Visiting Justice.

(ii.) In Appendix VII. will be found a collection of the law which confers on the Judges and Magistrates powers of ordering flogging. By rule 274 of the Prison Rules and Regulations published in *Government Gazette* of 31st October, 1891, the power of the Superintendent alone to order flogging for certain offences is limited to twelve strokes, and by rule 275 the conjoint power of the Superintendent and a Visiting Justice to order flogging for the same offences, if occurring in a graver form, is limited to thirty-six strokes in the case of an adult, and twelve strokes in the case of a juvenile.

(iii.) All floggings must be administered on the breech with a rattan of an approved pattern.

(iv.) Two rattans are in vogue, particulars of which are as follows:—

Weight. Length. Circumference.

Rattan for adults 4½ oz. 46 in. 1½ in.

Rattan for juveniles 2½ " 35 " 2 "

(v.) Floggings are administered by two European officers of the Gaol staff selected for the purpose, and we have no reason to take exception to the manner in which these men perform their disagreeable duty.

(vi.) We are deeply impressed with the necessity for vesting the Superintendent with independent powers of flogging for the reasons subjoined:—

- Because prompt punishment is, in our experience, the most efficacious way of dealing with Chinese.
- Because there are but few, if any, persons of leisure in the colony to whom resort could be had on every occasion on which it might be necessary to inflict a flogging.
- Because it would be an undue hardship upon busy commercial men to require their attendance at a fixed hour every day—as might be the case—to inquire into the conduct of, and to inflict punishment upon, prisoners.
- Because it would not be satisfactory on obvious grounds, that the services of an Official Visiting Justice should be sought to assist a brother officer in assessing the punishment for a prison offence.
- Because, owing to the large number of committed offences which incur flogging, it would be most inconvenient to adopt the English practice of holding over inquiries till the weekly visit of the Justices, which is in the nature of a surprise visit.
- Because, if the practice of holding over the cases were adopted, the check on prison officers supposed to be exercised by the visit of the Justices for the week would vanish, and because the inquiry would consume the better part of a working day.
- Because it is dangerous, in dealing with Asiatics, to give them grounds for thinking that any officer has incurred the displeasure of his superiors: better dismiss the officer and maintain a wholesome system than retain the officer and weaken his position by abandoning that system.
- Because, if the power of flogging vested in the Superintendent is not maintained, the Chinese will erroneously ascribe the curtailment or abolition of the power to their past persistent refusal to labour, and will persist in refusing to labour in the future in the hopes of again obtaining an amelioration or repeal of the punishment to which they would be subject.

(vii.) Had abuses resulted from the power possessed by the Superintendent, we think it highly probable that such abuses would have attracted the attention of the weekly Visiting Justices; but we are unaware that any protest or comment by them on the subject is extant.

(viii.) Whilst strenuously urging the preservation of the present power of the Superintendent in respect to flogging, we see no objection to the substitution of a birch for the rattan, and recommend that an experiment in this direction should be made, as we are not sure that the effects of the

rattan on a Chinaman may not in some cases be more far reaching than the purely punitive effect striven after.

(ix.) It follows from our views as to the arming of the Superintendent with independent flogging powers that we are *a fortiori* in favour of the maintenance of flogging to be inflicted by order of the Superintendent and a Visiting Justice; but in this connection we think that, if the rattan is retained, the maximum number of strokes to be inflicted at one time should not exceed twenty in any case, and we are further strongly of opinion that a system of fewer strokes more frequently imposed would prove a greater deterrent than the present system. If this view be adopted it would be necessary to amend the law conferring on Judges and Magistrates the power of ordering corporal punishment.

(x.) We see no reason why it should not be made a duty of the Superintendent to attend in person, at all floggings, as it is the duty of the Governor of an English gaol to do.

(xi.) The Committee recommend that provision should be made for retaining in hospital until his wounds are healed any prisoner laid up in consequence of a flogging whose time for discharge from gaol falls due before he is fit to be discharged from hospital; such retention should be optional with a prisoner and in the discretion of the Medical Officer.

(xii.) The Committee fear that the unique consequences of the juxtaposition of this colony to the mainland of China and the province of Kwang Tung are not always present to the minds of those responsible for regulating the criminal population in our midst.

One consequence alluded to is this, that Hongkong is the resort of Chinese fleeing from justice as administered in China—the authors of piracies and armed robberies who do not scruple to repeat their crimes within British jurisdiction and constitute a leaven full of active permeating evil qualities. If to this is added the presence of numerous clans speaking different dialects and ready to defend an injury to one of their numbers by armed force, it is palpable that there are elements of danger and disorder rife in this colony which are probably without parallel elsewhere. Suppose that England herself were on the very borders of a country unable to control its wilder spirits and inhabited by segregated clans of varying forms of speech, and that her population consisted for the most part of an overflow of the people from the adjoining country, the regulation and punishment of such alien incursionists would take some abnormal form. And if the imprisoned portion of this alien body had been convicted of offences attended with violence, or, when in gaol, refused obedience to the regulations intended to make their incarceration a deterrent from crime, we venture to say that there would be no hesitation in resorting to the only form of punishment, viz., flogging, which would be efficacious, and that the power of ordering this punishment would be entrusted to a limited extent to the head officer when he is made responsible for the maintenance of strict discipline, when swift punishment is the most respected, and when the invocation of other counsels is for certain reasons a hardship on the consulted.

We press upon the Government our views in this regard, and trust that no action will be taken to introduce here a system prevalent elsewhere simply because this is a British colony and without very careful regard to the local circumstances of the colony.

SUGGESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS.

To sum up, the Committee are of opinion—

(i.) That the hospital accommodation is grossly inadequate, that the hospital attendants are not suited by training for their duties, and that their hours of duty are excessive;

(ii.) That flogging in the gaol should under no pretence be dispensed with, and that, in particular, the withdrawal from the Superintendent of his present power of ordering corporal punishment is to be strongly deprecated;

(iii.) That a birch might be substituted for the rattan in the case of floggings ordered by the Superintendent, but that the rattan should not be abolished in other cases, it being left to the discretion of the Judges, Magistrates, and the Superintendent acting in concert with a Visiting Justice, to decide whether the rattan

or the birch should, with the sanction of the Medical Officer, be used in any given case;

(iv.) That the number of strokes with a rattan should not exceed twenty at one time in any case;

(v.) That a system which would admit of the ordering of more floggings and fewer strokes is preferable to the present system, which admits, in most cases—of only one flogging with a large number of strokes;

(vi.) That in particular the Superintendent in conjunction with a Visiting Justice should have power in aggravated cases to order two floggings of, say, fifteen strokes each as a maximum with an interval of not less than a lunar month between each flogging;

(vii.) That definite intervals should be fixed which must elapse before one flogging may follow upon another flogging, e.g.—

First flogging.	Interval.
6 strokes.	10 days.
12 strokes.	21 days.
&c.	&c.

with liberty to the Medical Officer to extend the interval if necessary;

(viii.) That prisoners sentenced by Judges and Magistrates to be flogged at the end of their term of imprisonment should receive their punishment not later than twenty-one days prior to the date of their discharge from gaol;

(ix.) That all floggings are administered only after proper medical examination and certification of fitness; are inflicted by authorised instruments and in every other way in accordance with the Gaol regulations;

(x.) That prisoners receive due attention from the Medical Officer after a flogging;

(xi.) That the death of prisoner No. 704 within eight days after receiving the second flogging, though greatly to be deplored, was not directly due to the flogging he received, but was probably due to causes over which, under existing arrangements, the Medical Officer had no control;

(xii.) That the blood poisoning which caused the death of prisoner No. 704 might have been the result of the absorption of germs whilst under treatment in the overcrowded and cramped hospital;

(xiii.) That this case, being the first fatal case within living memory, goes to establish the conclusion that flogging with the rattan is not a punishment peculiarly perilous in its infliction on Chinese;

(xiv.) That in the case of prisoner No. 528, there is sufficient ground for concluding that the aggravated state of his wounds might have been caused to some extent by his own conduct after his discharge from gaol, and no sufficient ground for concluding that it was solely due to the manner in which he was flogged; nor do we think that the flogging—even if it did produce such results—must of necessity have been a brutal flogging;

(xv.) That the formation of gluteal abscesses is a rare exception and a mere accident, not a necessary consequence, of a flogging;

(xvi.) That the rules and regulations governing prison offences and punishments require to be re-drafted;

(xvii.) That any misinterpretation of these rules and regulations that may have occurred is due to the difficulty attendant on the construing of them;

(xviii.) That this misinterpretation, if any, has not been confined to the Superintendent, but has been shared in by the majority of the Visiting Justices;

(xix.) That for any such misinterpretation, no blame attaches to either the Superintendent or the Visiting Justices;

(xx.) That a flogged prisoner whose wounds are unhealed at the date of his discharge from gaol should have the option of remaining in the Gaol hospital or of being treated in the Government Civil Hospital;

(xxi.) That the latter alternative is the preferable one, because it will relieve the congested state of the Gaol hospital;

(xxii.) That prisoners sentenced for felony and for the graver misdemeanours such as perjury, certain assaults, false pretences, etc., to a term of imprisonment exceeding six months, should be liable to have their queues cut off for repeated offences in gaol, provided that no queue shall be cut off within the three months next preceding the date of discharge from gaol;

(xxiii.) That it is advisable that the evidence in all cases of inquiry preceding the infliction of any punishment or at least in cases in which the Superintendent, either by himself or in conjunction with a Justice of the Peace, orders flogging, should be taken on oath and in writing, and kept on record;

(xxiv.) That the absence, so far as is known, of any protest by the Visiting Justices against either the power of the Superintendent or of the Superintendent and a Justice of the Peace to order floggings, or the mode in which that power is exercised, indicates that the system in vogue, if not directly approbated, has not been reprobated by the Visiting Justices;

(xxv.) That this acquiescence on the part of the Unofficial Visiting Justices indicates that the leading business men in the colony are not opposed to the continuance of the present methods;

(xxvi.) That there is nothing in the physique of an ordinary Chinaman to unfit him to bear a flogging;

(xxvii.) That this conclusion is strengthened by the fact that castigation in severer forms, viz., by the use of a bamboo and of a wooden stick, is commonly practised on the mainland of China;

(xxviii.) That the number of floggings is no indication of an unusual exercise by the Superintendent of his power to flog, but rather points to the frequent unruly behaviour of the prisoners and is a reason for preserving to the Superintendent his present power;

(xxix.) That the proportion of floggings to prisoners in gaol, which for the past ten years has varied from 1 in 25 to 1 in 10 shows that the number of floggings is relatively small and that the number of prisoners flogged is relatively still smaller if it be recollected that it often occurs that the same prisoner is flogged more than once;

(xxx.) That the abnormal ratio of 1 in 10 attained in 1895 is shown by Mr. Thomson's evidence to have been due to an abnormal state of things;

(xxxi.) That the occurrence of such a state of things and the possibility of its recurrence strengthen the plea that it would be unwise to divest the Superintendent of his present summary powers of ordering a flogging;

(xxxii.) That the worse behaviour of Chinese prisoners here compared with the behaviour of prisoners in English gaols as testified to by Mr. Craig, Chief Warden, who has had experience of both classes of prisoners, accounts for any difference in the ratio that may exist in the case of Home prisons and in the case of the local prison;

(xxxiii.) That the treadmill as already provided for in the rules should be resorted to as a form of hard labour;

(xxxiv.) That a fresh rattan should be used at every flogging;

(xxxv.) That the Magistrates should have extended powers of ordering floggings up to twelve strokes, in lieu of other forms of punishment, in cases of larceny, assaults, riotous and disorderly conduct, etc., etc.

RESERVATIONS BY DR. ATKINSON.

1.—Referring to paragraph 7, sub-section ix. and paragraph 8, sub-sections iv. and vi., I am of opinion that no flogging should exceed six strokes at any one time. My reason for this is that a greater number is liable to seriously injure the prisoner and incapacitate him from working for a lengthened period, whilst if only six strokes are administered at one time no serious injury can accrue under ordinary circumstances and the culprit will be able to resume the ordinary prison labour within a day or so of their administration.

2.—I am of opinion that paragraph 8, sub-section vii., should be omitted altogether, as it is within the province of the Surgeon to the Gaol to determine when a prisoner is in a fit state to receive a second flogging.

3.—I am also of opinion that paragraph 8, sub-section xiv., should be amended as follows—

“That in the case of prisoner No. 528, there is sufficient ground for concluding that the aggravated state of his wounds might have been caused to some extent by his own actions after his discharge from gaol, and no sufficient ground for concluding that it was solely due to the manner in which he was flogged.”

HON. J. M. THOMSON'S EVIDENCE.

The Hon. J. M. Thomson's evidence as to the cause of the abnormal number of floggings in 1895 is as follows:—

Q—Can you assign any cause for the increase from 295 in 1891 to 535 in 1895?

A—Yes. About September last year, in the course of my usual inspections, I came to the conclusion that the head turnkey was not doing his duty and that the cranks were not up to the proper strength. I ordered the warder to make a surprise test of all the cranks immediately on receipt of the head turnkey's certificate. One morning, in doing so, he found that most of the cranks were very much under weight—under test—and a large proportion of them had no weight at all.

Dr. Atkinson—No pressure?

Witness—No pressure. Then the result of that was that all the cranks being up to the proper test, the prisoners, as I believed, entered into a conspiracy to refuse to do the labour, and the result was a large increase in the number of floggings.

Q—Comparing your terms of office, was there any marked increase or decrease in any special class of offences?

A—The increase was almost entirely owing to refusal to labour.

Q—And that refusal to labour was due to the fact that the pressure was increased?

A—It was due to the fact that the cranks were kept up to the test.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LIMITED.

THE \$3,500 REFUNDED TO THE COMPANY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, was held at the Company's office, No. 14, Praya Central, on the 13th July for the purpose of confirming the following special resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on the 22nd June last:—

That the Articles of Association be altered in manner following:—

(a) Paragraph 10 of Article 2 which now reads as follows:—"Auditors Secretary and Manager mean those respective Officers from time to time of the Company" and the marginal note of the same paragraph shall be cancelled, and in lieu thereof the following marginal note and paragraph shall be inserted that is to say

"Chief Manager	"Chief Manager
"Secretary and	"Secretary and
"Auditors"	"Auditors respectively mean the persons for the time being performing the duties of these respective officers."

(b) In Article 69 the words "One thousand dollars" shall be eliminated and there shall be substituted therefor the words "two thousand dollars."

(c) In Article 70 the words "Chief Manager" shall be substituted for the word "Manager."

(d) In Article 72 and in the marginal note thereof the word "Manager" where it occurs shall be eliminated and the words "Chief Manager" shall be substituted therefor.

(e) At the end of Articles 83 and 87 there shall be added the words "or Chief Manager."

Mr. J. Kramer presided, and there were also present—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. G. B. Dodwell, J. H. Lewis, N. A. Siebs, St. C. Michaelsen (Directors), D. Gillies (Chief Manager), T. I. Rose (Secretary), Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. C. Sharp, Fullerton Henderson, W. Parfitt, and R. Mitchell.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I beg to propose that the resolution which was passed here at the meeting held on the 22nd June be confirmed. Will anyone please second that?

Mr. SHARP—I beg to second the resolution. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Before separating I wish to mention that the directors had a meeting immediately after the last meeting of shareholders, and as some doubt had been expressed here by one of the shareholders as to the legality of the gracious vote of the shareholders of \$3,500, the directors came to the conclusion to refund this money to the Company. Still, the directors remain thankful to the shareholders for their gracious vote. Gentlemen, that is all the business before the meeting. (Applause.)

THE WANCHAI WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Company, Limited, was held at the office of the General Managers (Messrs. Meyer and Co.), No. 5, Queen's Road Central, on 11th July, 1896, for the purpose of considering the terms of a proposed lease of the Company's Godowns to the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited. Mr. J. H. Garrels presided, and there were also present—Messrs. H. Stofferfoht and P. Sachse (Consulting Committee), C. Heermann, O. von der Heyde, F. Henderson, H. Ehmer, C. Schroeter, C. Rogge, W. Rudeloff (Secretary), and Kwok Ah Lum.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, you have had an opportunity during the past week of ascertaining the terms of the proposed lease. Still, before we are going to vote on it, I shall state in what manner it will affect the future position of this Company. In the first place, for the next ten years to come we withdraw from active business entirely, the whole of our storage business and all the buildings passing over for the time being to the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, who no doubt can make a good thing out of it by working our business in conjunction with their own. On the other hand, they have to pay all the expenses in connection with the godowns, that is to say, Crown rent and taxes, all insurance premia and repairs, they being bound to redeliver the buildings to us in ten years' time in the same good condition which they are now in. Further, they have not only to pay the interest due on the mortgages, but have also, in case the mortgages should be called in, to find the money for fresh mortgages. Everything has thus been provided for to make sure that no money whatever need be spent by this Company during the term of the lease, and consequently that no further call will be made on shareholders, and still we have the guarantee of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. that on the expiry of the ten years' lease we get our property back in just as good a condition as it is now. And now as to the income of this Company during these ten years. The lease stipulates for an annual rent of \$8,300 payable to us half-yearly. Out of this have to be paid only remunerations to General Managers, Consulting Committee, auditors, and architects. Referring first to the Consulting Committee, I do not think that after the actual active business of the Company should have come to an end, we should, during the continuance of the present lease, require the assistance of a Consulting Committee, and it is my intention, therefore, at the next annual meeting, to propose not to re-elect a Consulting Committee. In making these remarks I wish to express my full appreciation of the services of the present committee, which on many occasions, and more particularly during the recent negotiations with the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, have been of the greatest value to the General Managers and the Company generally. The General Managers' remuneration as per Articles is fixed at \$1,200 for office expenses and conducting generally the business of the Company and 5 per cent. commission on all income. Their work, however, when this lease is entered upon will be greatly reduced and on behalf of the General Managers I agree that during the term of the lease our remuneration should be reduced to \$500 in full, out of which amount my firm would pay whatever may become due to auditors and architects. This would leave net \$7,800, to the shareholders, payable on the

30th June and 31st December, and sufficient to pay for the next ten years a half-yearly dividend of \$1.50 per share, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. You might say, of course, that this rate, although better than the average dividend paid during the existence of this Company, still is no better than we paid last year and had, as we thought, every reason to expect in future. However, it is one thing to expect something and another to have it guaranteed by such a substantial concern as the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company. We are now no more subject to the fluctuations of trade, but enjoy a fixed and regular income, which will be paid to us half-yearly in the same manner as though it was interest due on debentures. In fact, our shares will for the next ten years resemble a kind of debenture, the only difference being that after expiry of the ten years shareholders will not get back hard cash, but will be reinstated into the possession of two big properties covering nearly two acres, the one of which has about 210 feet marine frontage and as much on Queen's Road, and the other a frontage of about 500 feet altogether on two smaller roads. What the value of these properties will be in ten years time it would be futile to guess. I maintain, however, that this question is indissolubly bound up with the future prosperity of this colony, and he must take a gloomy view of the latter, indeed, who does not think that the value of our properties will be considerably more ten years hence than it is now. I may add, that an increase in value of say \$1 per square foot would be equal to \$30 for each share of this Company. That is all that occurs to me, but before putting the resolution to the meeting I shall be glad to answer any questions.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no questions, I beg to propose that Marine Lot No. 29 and the Company's interest in the Wanchai Pier and Inland Lots Nos. 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 613, 614, and 615 be leased to the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, for ten years from the 1st July instant, subject to existing mortgages, at the yearly rental of \$8,300, to be paid half-yearly upon the terms described to this meeting by the General Managers, or upon such other terms as the General Managers may approve of, and that the General Managers do cause the necessary lease to be executed accordingly.

Mr. ROGGE—I have much pleasure in seconding.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that is all the business of this meeting. I need only add that as soon as possible we will make out the accounts for the past half year and declare an interim dividend. This, however, may take some time, as we have some repairs to effect, and it may be six or eight weeks before that dividend can be paid. I thank you for your attendance.

THE JAPAN TIDAL WAVE RELIEF FUND.

The Right Rev. Bishop Burdon writes as under date of 7th July:—

I enclose an earnest appeal from Bishop Awdry, of Kobe, for help in the attempt to relieve the terrible distress caused by the recent tidal wave in Northern Japan. I shall be glad to be the medium of forwarding any sums sent to me. Would it be possible to form a plan for raising a general subscription from Hongkong on behalf of the sufferers? The need is pressing and sore.

(Enclosure.)

The First Kobe, 27th June, 1896.

Dear Bishop Burdon,—You will have heard of the terrible distress as well as loss of life caused in Northern Japan by a tidal wave: 26,000 or more killed, and many thousands injured; houses, crops, tools, boats, and nets in many places almost all gone.

I need hardly say that here the Foreign community is deeply interested in the relief of this distress, coming forward liberally with money, and sending experienced and trustworthy men to the spot to administer it wisely, not in staving off actual starvation which the Japanese Government will do, but in helping to set the survivors on their feet again by giving them the means to get to work again.

Naturally we are wishing to invite sympathy elsewhere also, and various members of our Committee are writing to friends at Hongkong and elsewhere, hoping that active help would come from there also.

Of course Hongkong will choose the channel for its own charities; but if it should be a convenience to send them through Kobe, the Kobe Committee would willingly bear the expense and responsibility of administration.—Yours truly,

WM. AWDRY,
Bishop.

Under instructions from H.E. the Governor Mr. C. C. Platt, His Excellency's Private Secretary, forwards us the subjoined letter for publication, with an intimation that all subscriptions should be forwarded to Mr. Jackson, and it has been proposed that, with the concurrence of the donors, such subscriptions should be sent to the Kobe Relief Committee for distribution:—

Kobe, Japan,
1st July, 1896.

Sir,—I beg to lay before Your Excellency the following brief statement of the great disaster which visited part of this country on the 15th June last, and in behalf of the committee, of which I have the honour to be Secretary and Treasurer, respectfully to ask Your Excellency's distinguished co-operation in our plans for relief, in such a way as may seem to Your Excellency advisable and feasible.

The newspapers of Hongkong have doubtless had full reports of the damage to life and property caused by this exceptionally severe tidal wave. It is not, therefore, necessary to take up Your Excellency's time with detailed statements, but an official summary of the damage, as far as ascertained, places the loss of life at about 28,000; the number of wounded at 4,400; the number of houses destroyed, in whole or in part, at 7,000; and the survivors who are left more or less destitute at 75,000. So widespread is the devastation that even the suffering and loss of life caused by the great earthquake of 1891 cannot equal the present record.

The foreign residents of Japan have promptly subscribed to the relief of the sufferers. At this port the *Kobe Chronicle*, at present under the editorial management of T. Cowen, Esq., was the first to make a public appeal, but on the 25th ult. a public meeting was called, at which it was unanimously resolved to entrust the work of raising funds, and of disbursing the same, to a committee, which was then elected (with power to add to its number). This committee at present is composed of the following members:—R. von Krenckel, Esq., H.I.G.M.'s Consul, Chairman, A. C. Sim, Esq., A. De Ath, Esq., T. Lenz, Esq., C. P. Hall, Esq., Rev. J. L. Atkinson, Right Rev. Bishop Awdry, J. S. Happer, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer.

In view of past experience, the sentiment of this public meeting was decidedly opposed to entrusting the funds which might be raised to the Japanese authorities for disbursement, and in electing our committee it was understood that a careful, personal supervision should be exercised by us in the distribution of the funds.

Three members of the above committee were actively and personally engaged in distributing funds raised for the relief of the 1891 earthquake sufferers, and we feel that the experience then gained will be most valuable to us in the discharge of our present trust.

Since the committee was organized we have collected \$5,000 from this community, but the reports which reach us day by day from the scene of the disaster convince us that large as this sum is in comparison with the size and wealth of our community, it is only a small amount compared to what is needed adequately to relieve the suffering.

Present necessities are being met by the Japanese authorities, but since rice and mulberry fields have been laid waste, fishing boats and nets broken or washed away, and houses more or less completely wrecked, it will be many months before the survivors will be in a position to earn their living once again. We, therefore, have thought it best to appeal to the sister communities of the East, namely, Nagasaki, Shanghai, and Hongkong, with the hope that the same generous spirit which actuated them in 1891 will once again lead them to come to the aid of the sufferers.

To Your Excellency, therefore, we beg to present this application, with the hope that in

some way Your Excellency may be able to interest the community at Hongkong, and while we do not for a moment wish to seek recognition as the only channel through which relief may be sent, yet we feel that our experience and our organization warrant us in stating that any funds which may be sent through us will be carefully and scrupulously applied to the object for which the funds were donated.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. S. HAPPER,
Sec. and Treasurer,
(56 Kobe.)

To His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., F.R.G.S., Governor, Hongkong.

Mr. Jackson begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the above fund:—

H.E. Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G.	\$50
Mr. Thomas Jackson	50
Rt. Rev. Bishop Burdon	50
Shewan, Tomes & Co.	100
Dodwell, Carlill & Co.	100
Siemssen & Co.	100
David Sassoon, Sons & Co.	100
E. D. Sassoon & Co.	100
Arnhold, Karberg & Co.	100
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	100
Malchers & Co.	100
Gilman & Co.	100
Holiday, Wise & Co.	100
Reiss & Co.	100
Bradley & Co.	100
Carlowitz & Co.	100
W. Meyerink & Co.	100
Gibb, Livingston & Co.	50
Stolterfoht & Hagen	50
Noronha & Co.	25
Sander & Co.	25
S. J. David & Co.	50
Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co.	50
Douglas Lapraik & Co.	50
Lauts, Wegener & Co.	25
Mr. V. H. Deacon	25
Mr. R. Marten	25
Mr. H. A. Ritchie	25
Mr. Ho Tung	50
Mr. W. G. Humphreys	25
W. C. H. H.	10
Hongkong Daily Press	25
Mr. D. Warren Smith	10
Captain Hall	10
Meyer & Co.	100
Harling, Buschmann and Menzell	50
Grossmann & Co.	50
Linstead and Davis	25
M. S. Sassoon & Co.	25
Kruse & Co.	25
H. Skött & Co.	25
Turner & Co.	25
W. R. Loxley & Co.	25
Scheele & Co.	25
Jebson & Co.	25
Wieler & Co.	25
C. J. Gaupp & Co.	25
Mr. A. B. Johnson	25
Mr. M. J. D. Stephens	25
Mr. W. Tarn	25
Mr. A. H. Chizoy	15
Mr. Ho Fook	10
Mr. W. Powell	10
Mr. J. V. Jorge	5
Lane, Crawford and Co.	100
John D. Humphreys and Son	100
Chater and Mody	25
Brandao and Co.	25
J. J. dos Remedios and Co.	25
Hughes and Hough	25
Carmichael and Co.	25
A. G. de Champeaux	25
Hon. E. R. Bellios, C.M.G.	25
A Friend	25
E. Niedhardt	10
Denison and Ram	10
Hon. Ho Kai	10
G. C. Anderson	10
Heuermann, Herbst and Co.	10
J. Maclehorse	10
C. H. Grace	5
More and Seimund	5
Burnie and Goddard	25
"North Briton"	25
Mr. Lau Wai Chuen	25
Mr. W. Lysaght	10
Mr. J. R. Michael	10
Mr. Wong Yue Chune	10
Mr. Ringhie	10

Total.....\$3,230

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE DOCK COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Mr. Kramer at the meeting of the 22nd ultimo did not attempt to justify the retention by the Directors of the \$3,500 which they have received as an addition to their fees for the latter half of 1895. He admitted that the so-called Resolution of the 25th February last was no Resolution at all. He insisted that it was merely "an expression of opinion," and the legal adviser of the Directors said that it was not intended to be a Resolution. This seems to me to be a complete change of front on the part of the Directors. The so-called Resolution was solemnly moved and seconded as a Resolution at the meeting of the 25th February. It was put to the meeting by the Chairman as a Resolution and it was, as a Resolution, declared by the Chairman to be carried. In the circular of the 7th March, issued no doubt under the instructions of the Directors, it was alleged that the Resolution was passed on the 25th February and in his opening speech of the 22nd ultimo the Chairman described it as a Resolution. I have it on the best authority, and indeed Mr. Kramer practically admitted, that the Directors have received the \$3,500 supposed to have been voted to them by the so-called Resolution. It seems impossible to escape from the conclusion that it was intended as a Resolution, that it was treated and acted upon by the Directors as a Resolution, and that they only admit that it was not a Resolution when they are forced to make the admission.

But now the Directors take up a most extraordinary position. They say in effect:—"The so-called Resolution was no Resolution at all. It was never intended to be a Resolution. It was merely an expression of opinion. Under this expression of opinion, we have, in direct violation of the Articles of Association, received a sum of \$3,500. We have paid ourselves at double the contract rate and we now ask you to alter the contract for the future, without regard to the fact that we have violated it in the past. The fact that we have, without authority, doubled our fees is not relevant to the question whether our fees shall be doubled. We intend to keep what we have got, unless we are compelled to refund it. It will probably not be worth the while of any shareholder to bring the matter into Court; and we hope that if the sum which we have mistakenly received is brought into the next half-yearly accounts, and those accounts are passed by the shareholders, that will amount to a ratification of this erroneous transaction. We are backed up by the majority of the shareholders, and whether it is right or wrong to retain this money we intend to retain it unless we are compelled to give it up."

It is scarcely necessary to point out that an invalid payment of this description cannot be ratified by any general meeting of shareholders. It is scarcely necessary to point out that the Directors are in a false position and that they ought to retire from such a position as soon as possible. This is not a question of so many dollars. It is not a question of so many cents per share. It is a question of principle—a question of right and wrong, and if the Directors see, as they must see by this time, that they have been in the wrong, why do they not make the only amends which it is possible for them now to make?—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. F. REECE.

Hongkong, 9th July, 1896.

THE FLOGGING COMMITTEE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—As one who has had some experience in the infliction of floggings elsewhere, will you allow me to thoroughly endorse your remarks on the report of the recent Flogging Committee, which remarks indeed do not in my opinion go far enough. The suggestion of that Committee that this form of punishment should be inflicted on the "little and often" principle is so radically opposed both to the ordinary principles of humanity which obtain

in civilised countries at the end of this nineteenth century, and to a practical knowledge of the art of maintaining discipline in gaols, that one can only express unbounded astonishment at its having emanated from three intelligent officials such as those on the Committee. Gaol punishment to be effective must be both prompt and severe, and defective as the present system in the Hongkong Gaol apparently is (*teste* the extraordinary number of floggings in 1895), the suggestion of the Committee would make it infinitely worse.

In the first place, there seems to be an undue delay between the commission of offences against gaol discipline and their punishment; e.g., from par. 6 (v.) of the Committee's report it would seem that a prisoner refused to work (a most serious offence) on May 21st and was not punished for such offence until May 25th—an interval of four days. This delay would appear to be due to the practice of requiring an inquiry to be made by a Visiting Justice before the infliction of certain punishments. Such a practice, even apart from the delays caused by it, seems open to objection on two grounds, (1) that it lessens the authority of the Superintendent of the Gaol, and (2) that inspection and inquiry by non-officials in gaol matters is of little or no practical use, well meaning as such non-officials may be. The better course would seem to be to give the Superintendent full power to inflict any punishment authorised by the gaol code (subject to the veto of the Medical Officer when he is not himself a doctor) and to rely upon official inspections for the prevention of irregularities. There would of course be no objection to the continuance of the present system of visits from non-official J.P.s, but they should have no power to direct the Superintendent, who alone is responsible for the gaol discipline, to do or not to do anything, though their remarks as recorded in the visiting book would of course receive every consideration, both from the Superintendent and the higher authorities.

Now as to the severity of the floggings inflicted. It has always seemed to me that if a man deserves whipping he deserves whipping well. A single sound flogging is by far the most humane in the end, both as regards the prisoner himself and as regards the other "visitors in the gaol" (to quote a Japanese paper.) The system proposed by the Committee appears both cruel and ineffective and if it was that on which gaol discipline was administered last year it will largely account for the extraordinary number of floggings. Judging from experience elsewhere, there seems no earthly reason why a Chinaman should not stand thirty stripes well laid on, and if this punishment were inflicted promptly on a man refusing to work I venture to think that this most serious form of offence would soon be stamped out. A short anecdote of what actually occurred in the large gaol at — (where there are nearly 3,000 prisoners, both Orientals and Europeans) will illustrate this. An entire squad of some twenty European prisoners refused one morning to turn out to work, on the ground of some alleged deficiency in their rations. The Superintendent, Dr. S —, on hearing of this walked up to the compartment where the men were confined and ordered No. 1 to step out and work. "— if I do," replied No. 1. (The word used is quite unprintable.) The same order was then put to each of the remaining prisoners and the same answer was returned by all. "Bring out the triangle," said the Superintendent, "and tie him up," pointing to No. 1. There was a struggle, but it was done. "Thirty stripes," said the Superintendent, and when they were inflicted the first prisoner was cast loose and No. 2 tied up. By this time the prisoners were only too eager to perform their allotted tasks, but they were relentlessly told they might do them after being flogged, and in the end each of them received in turn his thirty stripes. It will be understood that after this there were no more refusals to work in that particular gaol for a lengthened period. This may sound severe, but a little consideration will show that it is far more humane in the long run than the suggested system of petty floggings at intervals.

It is not for a layman to discuss the question as to whether the death of the unfortunate prisoner No. 704 was due proximately or remotely

(why use Latin words when English will do?) to the infliction of two whippings at a very short interval, although *prima facie* this would seem a very likely thing to cause abscesses, but a word of protest may be entered against the whole system of repeated floggings which seems to prevail here. The practice of the Supreme Court here in ordering a prisoner to receive more than one flogging for an offence (thus keeping the second one hanging over his head for a considerable time) is hardly likely to commend itself to the adoption of most judges and magistrates, even were it legalised; but apart from this it certainly seems that in the matter of gaol punishments some restriction ought to be placed on power of flogging convicts again as soon as ever the medical officer says that they have recovered from a previous dose of the rod, or rather rattan. This punishment should of course be reserved for the more serious offences only (there are several other very effectual punishments), and once properly inflicted there ought to be no necessity, even with old offenders, for its repetition for at least six months. I would suggest therefore that, except with the special permission of the Governor in each case, an interval of this length be prescribed before a convict should be flogged again for a second offence against gaol discipline. It is not to be for a moment supposed that in a gaol in British possessions he would be flogged twice for the same offence.

Passing over as puerile the suggestion to substitute the birch for the rattan, one may be permitted to express surprise at the idea of introducing the treadmill as a form of hard labour. It is true that the cranks are at least equally out of date in most modern prisons, but the Committee might at least have hit upon some form of labour less objectionable. In a gaol of the size of the Hongkong one there ought to be no difficulty in providing useful forms of employment, differing in severity, for the various classes of prisoners.

In conclusion, we must all be glad that the Committee has brought prominently forward the very unsatisfactory condition of the Gaol Hospital. But who is responsible for this state of things?

SCRUTATOR.

Hongkong, 14th July, 1896.

REBELLION IN NORTH KIANGSU.

We are indebted to Father Thomas for the following particulars of the rebellion now proceeding in North Kiangsu and Southern Shantung. The names of the societies which have risen against the mandarins are Kin-lung-tsao and Ta-tung-hwei. The objects of the members of both these societies are almost identical with those of the famous White Lily, with which we suspect they are affiliated, or at least they are its offshoots. The headquarters of the operations of both societies are in the sub-prefecture Tsao-hsien in the province of Shantung.

For the past three years the members of the societies have been very active in pushing their propaganda and enrolling members and initiating neophytes. On many previous occasions they have attempted partial risings, but always hitherto without success. It is a noteworthy feature of every previous attempt that as soon as a signal was given many people in Sui-chow-fu sold their little belongings, disposed of their effects, and hastening into Shantung made rapid junction with the rebels, which shows that the revolutionary teachings of the societies are widespread and their effects felt equally in Shantung and North Kiangsu amongst their adherents.

In Sui-chow-fu it is well known that the membership of the societies is very great, and there is every reason to believe that the societies are equally powerful west of Kiangsu and in the north of Anhwei, towards Honan, since it is known that when the news of the present rising travelled abroad many men came hastening from Pacho in North Anhwei quite close to Honan, to join in the movement. An excuse having been found to raise the standard of the revolt, the rebels have begun by destroying many Tien-chu-tang, or Roman Catholic churches, in Shantung, and the Christians in three sub-prefectures have been completely and absolutely given over to the mercy of the rebels and their

property ruthlessly destroyed. Thence it spread into Shantung, where the rebels promptly occupied the residence of the French priests at Ho-kia-chwang, which they converted into a fortress for their own defence. From Ho-kia-chwang the movement spread over many Christian communities, whose houses they set on fire and completely destroyed. The rebels took possession of all the property and stock they required, including the ponies and cattle belonging to Christians or pagan owners indiscriminately, and requisitioned everything they needed from the country people as if they were a regularly organised army. The time selected for the rising has been particularly well chosen, as it is immediately after the wheat harvests have been gathered in and with a plentiful crop in the granaries they have ample food; and the country, moreover, after the wheat had been cut, is already covered with a high growth of kaoliang or sorghum through which the rebels can move in safety without being seen. To strengthen their position they have taken with them a great many native Christians as hostages whom they carry about from place to place, and two at least of the unhappy captives are already reported to have been murdered. To give an idea of the strength and organization of the rebels, we may mention that for the attack upon the converts and foreign mission at Tongshan (outside the walls of the city of the same name) fully 600 rebels were gathered by a preconcerted signal, and resistance on the part of the unhappy villagers was simply futile in the face of the numbers. Both the French missionaries and the native converts in that region carry arms for the defence of smaller gangs of bandits, who constantly harass the country; but with 600 determined enemies opening a regular attack upon the place it was no use to attempt any defence, and when our informant left the scene the rebels were lying outside the city waiting an expected arrival of further reinforcements from various points to begin a grand attack on the walled city itself. The rebels carry a standard of black and yellow, and all the local brigands in the neighbourhoods through which they marched had joined them in numbers, bringing a large additional supply of ponies in mobs which they had taken from the country people to mount the rebel forces. So rapidly had those forces increased in strength that when the Christian community and the mission at Fung-hsien were attacked the assailants numbered many thousands, and the house of Father Bouchier was converted by the rebels into a fortress. The country on every side was given up to indiscriminate pillage. The Christians disappeared and made off as best they could escape from the danger. In every small town in the sub-prefectures named, the garrisons consist of some twenty cavalry men, all equally impotent, while in the whole Sui-chow-fu prefecture the number of available troops scarcely reaches 500 horsemen, and perhaps as many infantry. The French fathers had previously warned the mandarins of the danger, and soldiers were sent to the threatened mission stations, but finding the enemy too numerous these heroes discreetly and promptly executed a series of "masterly retreats" back into their respective walled cities, so that the houses of the missionaries were lying in the hands of the rebels undisturbed. Even in the walled city of Sui-chow-fu itself, the mandarins find it impossible to measure their strength with that of the rebels.

AN ALARMING TELEGRAM.

The latest news from the scene of the rising is contained in a telegram received from Father Gain, Superior of the Missions in the district. It came via Chinan-fu from Sui-chow-fu which place it left on the 29th ulto. It reads:—We are living in our house in the fu (city) in a very bad state. Rebels occupy three districts Fung-hsien, Tongshan and Sian-hsien; 20 Christian communities destroyed; 1,000 Christians rendered homeless. Revolt rapidly increasing in area and strength. Expect troops to take action. The two priests, Fathers Thomas and Le Biboul, while on their way down to Shanghai met troops going forward from Tsingkiang-poo, on the Grand Canal.

It will be gathered from the foregoing that the two missionaries, who remained behind at the scene of the rebellion to take care of their

native flocks, have by the rising been enabled to take possession of their house in the city which they had bought 15 years ago, but never hitherto allowed to live in by the mandarins. —*China Gazette.*

QUARANTINE IN MANILA.

We translate the following from the Manila Comercio of the 18th June:—

The passengers who arrived by the *Esmeralda* have presented a petition to the Government in which they represent

1.—That, as shown by the vessel's port clearance, the epidemic prevailing at Hongkong has diminished, so much so that the number of deaths occurring daily is now one fourth or one fifth of the number registered when vessels arriving from that port were subjected to only three days' observation, and when no contagion was conveyed to Manila.

2.—That the deaths registered in Hongkong occur only amongst the Chinese and that no Chinese passengers have been carried by the *Esmeralda*.

3.—That the vessel came direct from Hongkong without touching at Amoy.

4.—That although in Hongkong no precautions are taken against arrivals from Amoy, where the epidemic appears to be considerable, the fact that the mortality at Hongkong does not increase, notwithstanding that Hongkong is more exposed than Manila to the infection, proves that the imposition of the maximum quarantine on arrivals from both ports alike is scarcely equitable, and it is excessively prejudicial to commerce, and especially to the passengers who embarked at Hongkong.

5.—That none of the passengers by the *Esmeralda* come from an infected port, the greater number coming direct from Japan, some from Manila (?), and another from America; therefore they ought not to be subjected to the same regulations as if they came in a vessel which had sailed from Amoy or which had Asiatic passengers on board.

6.—That in addition to all these arguments, the sanitary condition of the vessel leaves nothing to be desired, this opinion being confirmed by the Spanish doctors who have come on board.

THE REPLY.

The same paper of the 20th June says:—

The Governor-General, on the proposition of the Director-General of the Civil Administration, the Inspección de Beneficencia y Sanidad having been heard, has rejected the petition presented by the *Esmeralda*'s passengers and that of the consignees of steamers making voyages to Chinese ports, praying that the quarantine imposed on vessels arriving from the said ports might be reduced, the rejection being based on the fact that a decrease in the epidemic of bubonic plague in Hongkong has not been confirmed, but, quite the contrary, since the Consul for Spain in that colony has shown by telegram that the disease is increasing, to such an extent that 74 attacks amongst the Chinese resulted in an equal number of deaths, and that 8 out of 13 Europeans attacked by the terrible malady died. Also at Amoy, where the epidemic has been imported, many attacks occur, proportionally in greater number than in Hongkong, since in the first named port it is in its growing period.

HONGKONG.

Intensely hot weather has prevailed this week and yesterday there was a death from sunstroke in the harbour. The plague has certainly been mastered at last; yesterday no cases were reported. An interesting action against the Sanitary Board was heard on Wednesday and Thursday last and judgment was given yesterday, the plaintiff winning on the issue of trespass or no trespass and the defendants on the amount of damages. As, however, the defendants had paid \$60 into Court the whole of the money, under the local rules, has to go to the plaintiff. On Wednesday the Legislative Council met and several reports were laid on the table, the one of most interest being Mr. Chamberlain's despatch concerning the creation of additional unofficial members of the Council. On Sunday there was another

tragedy in the city, a *lukong* being shot in the street by a thief. The constable died from his injuries two days later. The murderer has not yet been caught. On Saturday an extraordinary general meeting of the Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Company, Limited, was held, and on Monday the shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, confirmed the resolution increasing the directors' fees.

Dr. Cantlie has been appointed Lecturer on Applied Anatomy at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School.

The death rate last month was 27.7 for the British and Foreign community (civil population) and 17.4 for the Chinese community.

The Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited, announces an interim dividend of four per cent. for the six months ended 30th June.

There were 2 cases of plague on the 7th July, 1 on the 8th, 3 on the 9th, 2 on the 10th, 3 on the 11th, 3 on the 12th, 1 on the 13th, and 2 on the 14th.

The maximum temperature last month was 91.1, on the 1st, and the minimum 73.7 on the 3rd, the mean being 80.7. The rainfall amounted to 18.63 inches.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. J. A. Hunt has been appointed Vice and Deputy Consul for the United States and that H.E. the Governor has recognised him provisionally in that capacity.

As the launch *Perseverance* was returning from Macao on Monday evening a Chinese passenger jumped overboard near Green Island. The launch was stopped and a boat lowered, but the body of the suicide was not recovered.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the following gentlemen have been appointed Justices of the Peace:—Dr. J. Bell, Dr. F. W. Clark, Mr. J. W. N. Kyse, Mr. A. P. MacEwen, Mr. T. H. Reid, Mr. R. L. Richardson, Dr. A. Rennie, and Mr. H. A. Ritchie.

From Japan papers we learn that Surgeon-Major Westcott, who is on a visit to Japan, showed his sympathy with the sufferers from the tidal wave by offering his services gratis to assist the injured. He was introduced by the Foreign Office to the heads of the Red Cross Society. His offer was declined with thanks, as there are already more than enough of doctors who can speak Japanese.

The enterprising burglar who has committed many impudent robberies in the colony recently, some of them from European houses, was dealt with by Hon. Commander Hastings on the 10th July and sent to gaol for twelve months with hard labour. There were six charges altogether, and the police were prepared with two more, but these were not proceeded with.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospitals:—

H. E. Major-General Black, C.B.	\$15
W. J. Canter, R.N.	5
F. R. L.	5
Li Sin	5

Two lots of Crown land were sold by auction by Mr. J. L. Prosser on the 13th July. The first was Inland Lot No. 1,380, situate at the north of MacDonnell Road, and containing 21,850 square feet. The annual rent is \$164, and the upset price \$3,278. The lot was sold to Mr. A. Denison for \$3,298. The second lot was Inland Lot No. 1,381, South Kennedy Road, containing 46,073 square feet, and this was sold to Hon. E. B. Bellios for \$6,931. The annual rent is \$346 and the upset price was \$6,911.

At the Magistracy on Tuesday, before Hon. Commander Hastings, Peter Gruenwald, second engineer on the German steamer *Martha*, was charged on remand with shooting two coolies. Both wounded men are now out of the hospital, and their evidence went to show that on the 25th May there was a general row on the boat between coolies, and during the disturbance the second engineer fired his revolver amongst the rowdies. The defendant was committed for trial, bail being allowed. Mr. Mounsey prosecuted and Mr. Bowley defended. The defence was reserved.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 14th July.—Macao Congous.—Settlements during the past fortnight are reported at 1,900 boxes at Tls. 11 to Tls. 24 per picul, chiefly Good Medium Teas, the lower grades still being in small supply. Prices latterly have ruled in favour of buyers, and a decline of Tls. 1 per picul has been established. There is a little more doing for Australia, recent shipments amounting to 1,700 Packages Congou, and 700 half-chests Kooloo. For the Continent there is little doing. Scented Caper.—The past fortnight has been exceedingly quiet, the settlements during that period only aggregating 6,000 boxes, at Tls. 10 to Tls. 24 per picul, making a total of 86,000 boxes, against 123,000 boxes up to the same date last year. Prices for Common and Medium shew no change, but Good Medium and Fine are again a little easier. Stocks in native hands are estimated at 70,000 boxes, a large portion of which is of undesirable quality. Shipments are going forward very slowly, at the moment, as owing to the scarcity of Scenting flower, Teamen are unable to deliver quickly.

SHANGHAI, 10th July.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s circular).—London deliveries of China Congou for June were 1,740,000 lbs., against 2,207,000 lbs. for the corresponding month of the previous year, and the stocks on 30th June were 10,000,000 lbs. against 10,736,000 lbs. in 1895. Late advices from Hankow report a marked rise in the prices of some descriptions of first crop Teas, notably of Oanfas. The rise in second packs of Oanfas is fully Taels 4 a picul and some of the head chops show a much larger advance. Russian demand consequent on the inferior quality of the second crop is said to be the cause. The second crop will be much smaller than it was last season. Black Tea.—Small settlements, mostly for shipment to America, continue without any change in rate. The lowest quotation for whole-leaf Tea is Taels 11½ against Tls. 13½ at same time last year. This class is in small supply.

Settlements reported are:—
Ningchow. 462 ½-chts. at Tls. 15.50 to 22.00 a picul.
Hohow ... 221 " " 12.75 to 14.25 "
Wenchow. 676 " " 13.50 to 18.50 "
Oonam ... 787 " " 11.25 to 12.00 "
Ichang ... 358 " " 16.00 to 12.00 "

Total...2,504 ½-chests.

Stock—20,193 half-chests, against 9,876 half-chests at same time last year.

Green Teas.—Pingsueys.—The Tea Hong, their Brokers, and the representatives of the Pingsuey Tea-men, in all some sixty signatories, have bound themselves under a penalty of Tls. 1,000 to Tls. 2,000 not to sell nor ship any Pingsuey Teas before the 9th August. This action appears likely only to increase their losses, as with present heavy stocks in America, the delay of a month or so in summer in shipping supplies will not raise home prices materially, and as soon as selling begins the pressure to realise accumulated stocks will probably bring about a lower range of prices here than would have ruled if the Trade had been allowed to run its usual course. The effect on total supplies is problematical and under any circumstances supplies are likely to equal all requirements.

Local Packs and Wenchows.—The principal part of the settlements to date are in these descriptions. Prices look moderate, though they leave no margin for profit on latest New York sales. Many of the Teas are attractively made, and would be serviceable Tea if they were more strongly fired.

Country Teas.—The first Soey-oans and Fychows are arriving and a few settlements have been made at 20 to 25 per cent. under last year's opening prices. The Soey-oans are sweet drawing, and some of the chops show a commendable improvement in style, especially in the Young Hysons. The Fychows are no better than they were last season, and have the same faults of smokiness and bad make.

Hysons.—The market has opened at Tls. 3½ to Tls. 4 a picul under last season's early prices. Settlements are confined to a few buyers. Prices are Tls. 21 to Tls. 21½ for Local Packs, Tls. 22½ to Tls. 27½ for Fychows and Soey-oans. No Moyunes or Tienkais yet to hand.

Settlements reported are:—Local Packed 2,222 half-chests at Tls. 15.50 to Tls. 19.25, fine Hyson Tls. 22.50 to Tls. 36.00.

Stock—Pingsuey ... 45,901 ½-chts.
Country Tea ... 2,224
Local Packed ... 202

Total...48,327 ½-chts.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.	
1896-97	1895-96
lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao 1,778,140	2,588,358
Shanghai and Hankow... 10,782,416	10,172,453
12,510,556	12,760,811

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.	
1896-97	1895-96
lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai 1,696,955	5,660,319
Amoy..... 1,458,295	2,770,691
3,155,250	8,431,010

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.	
1896-97	1895-96
lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow ... 16,584,567	23,241,831

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.	
1896-97	1895-96
lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama 8,571,494	11,575,044
Kobe 3,180,870	6,007,903
11,752,364	17,582,947

SILK.

CANTON, 15th July.—Tsates and Re-reels.—Remain quiet. Filatures.—A better tone prevailed during the fortnight and a rather large business has resulted. From prices paid we quote \$595 for Cheong Kee, Wing Wo Lun 9/11 (2nd crop), \$580 for Chung Sun Hang 10/12, \$570 for How King Lun 11/13, \$545 for Yu King Lun 13/15, \$530 for Yee Wo Loong 16/20. Shortreels for Americas till remain neglected. Waste.—Quiet, at rather weaker rates. Stocks.—Tsates, 600 bales; Filatures, 3,000 bales.

Tsates	No. 1	\$430	= 8/3
	No. 2	\$415	= 8/11
	No. 3	\$400	= 7/8
	No. 4	\$380	= 7/6
	No. 4 1/2	\$385	= 7/5
	No. 5	\$375	= 7/3
Filature 1st class	11/13	\$600 to \$590	
1st	13/15	\$600 to \$590	
2nd	9/11	\$590	
2nd	10/12	\$570	
2nd	13/15	\$550 to \$560	
2nd	10/12	\$550 to \$560	
3rd	11/13	\$470 to \$460	
3rd	13/15	\$470 to \$460	

Long-reels Lacklow	\$470
Satow	\$455
Suilam	\$440
Re-reel Lacklow No. 1	\$475
No. 2	\$460
No. 3	\$445
No. 4	\$425
Mahang No. 1	\$455
Punjun Books No. 1 & 2	\$117
No. 3 & 4	\$73
Punjun Waste	\$65
Steam Waste Extra	\$90
Market Extra	\$72
No. 1	\$53
Gum Waste No. 2	\$50
Re-reel Waste	\$82
Pierced Cocoons	\$64

Settlements for the fortnight:—	
1896-97.	1895-96.
For Europe ... 2,600 bales	500 bales.
For America .. 50 "	150 "
For Bombay .. 275 "	80 "
[& 140 piculs.	[& 50 piculs.

SHANGHAI, 10th July.—(From Mr. A. E. Brunkill's circular).—London messages to 8th current quote Silk "Firm," Gold Killings 8/3, Blue Elephants 10/-. Raw Silk.—A moderate business has been done during the week at quotations given below. Unimportant as the settlements are for the time of year they are sufficient to encourage holders, who are now refusing offers at current prices. Tsates.—800/1,000 bales have been booked, mostly New Silk, and some for future delivery; my quotations, below, are for New Silk, but the following parcels of old season's have been bought:—Buffalo 4 at Tls. 385, Gold Lion Kintze Tls. 365, Lan-foong Tls. 325. Yellow Silk.—Some New Szechuens have been settled at Tls. 195, quality and colour of these new arrivals appear satisfactory. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns 2nd to 8th July, 795 bales White and 10 piculs Yellow Silks. Filatures.—Some 100 bales of Hand Filatures have been

settled on a basis of Tls. 445/450 for Market No. 1. The export of Steam Filatures to date is as follows:—To London 2 bales, Continent 176 bales, and America 85 bales. Waste Silks.—Arrivals very small, and except one or two parcels of Gum Wastes, nothing has changed hands for Europe. Japanese buyers are securing all the available double cocoons at rather full prices. Cocoons continue to arrive in large quantities from various districts. Beyond those required for the Filatures there are several thousand piculs in the hands of speculators, the prices for which these latter are held are, however, too high for business. Pongees.—5,000 pieces Shantung have changed hands at Tls. 2.60 to 3.70 for 19 yards make according to weights, and at Tls. 2.55 to 3.15 for 25 in. 22 to 24 oz. of different qualities.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.	
1896-97	1895-96
bales.	bales.
Canton 1,094	2,543
Shanghai 2,660	9,553
6,754	12,096

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.	
1896-97	1895-96
bales.	bales.
Canton 268	1,575
Shanghai 194	720
457	2,295

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 15th July.—The market is again weaker and a further decline in prices has to be reported. Quotations for Formosa are \$35.50 to \$36.00. During the past week sales have been 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 15th July.—Business has improved a little during the week under the influence of a better demand from China. Following are the quotations:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.22 to 7.25 per picul.
do. " 2, White... 6.58 to 6.61 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.51 to 4.54 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.32 to 4.35 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.15 to 7.17 "
do. " 2, White... 6.47 to 6.50 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.42 to 4.45 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.28 to 4.30 "
Soochow Sugar Candy 10.82 to 10.85 "
Sackloong " 9.36 to 9.40 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The British steamer *Agamemnon*, Hongkong to London, 7th July, took:—8,712 boxes Tea (34,104 lbs. Congou, 148,848 lbs. Scented Caper), 205 bales Waste Silk, 285 bales Canes, 20 cases Essential Oil, 3 cases Curries, 208 packages Shells, 8 packages Sundries; for London and/or Manchester:—346 bales Waste Silk; for London and/or Liverpool:—20 half-chests Tea. From Amoy to London:—587 half-chests Tea, and 519 packages Tea.

The steamer *Oceanic*, Hongkong to Continent, 8th July, took:—714 bales Raw Silk, 151 bales Waste Silk, 9 cases Silk Piece Goods, 9 cases Curries, 895 packages Tea, and 95 packages Canvas; for Milan:—10 bales Raw Silk; for London:—55 bales Raw Silk, 2 cases Silk Piece Goods, and 1 case Effects.

The P. & O. steamer *Aden*, Hongkong to Buenos Ayres, 9th July, took:—300 packages Tea; for London:—6 cases Cigars, 695 rolls Matting, 5 packages Sundries, and 8,065 boxes Tea (135,807 lbs.).

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 15th July.—Bengal.—The market has continued steady and rates have been maintained. Closing quotations are \$710 for New Patna, \$722 for Old Patna, \$723 for New Benares, and \$735 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—There has not been any noteworthy change in the interval, and business has been up to the average. Latest figures are as under:—
New \$730 with all'ance of 1 1/2 to 2 cts,
Old (2 1/2 yrs.) \$750 " 1 to 1 1/2 "
Older \$760 " 0 to 1 1/2 "

Persian.—Oily has been neglected, while some few transactions have passed in Paper-wrapped drug. Current rates are \$550 to \$590 for the former and \$570 to \$640 for the latter according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna.....	1,890 chests.
Old Patna.....	310 "
New Benares.....	260 "
Old Benares.....	38 "
Malwa.....	280 "
Persian.....	870 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
July 8	708 1/2	722 1/2	725	735	730	750/760
July 9	705	722 1/2	725	735	730	750/760
July 10	705	720	722 1/2	735	730	750/760
July 11	705	720	722 1/2	735	730	750/760
July 12	705	720	722 1/2	735	730	750/760
July 13	707 1/2	720	722 1/2	735	730	750/760
July 14	708 1/2	720	722 1/2	735	730	750/760
July 15	710	720	722 1/2	735	730	750/760

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 15th July.—Owing to a continued enquiry, prices have further hardened, business having been done at 23 to 30 cents higher. Stocks: Bengal, about 4,000 bales.

Bombay	\$12.50 to 15.50 p. pl.
Kurrachee	12.00 to 15.00 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and	14.65 to 15.75 "
Dacca	
Shanghai and Japanese..	\$17.00 to 19.00 p. pl.
Tungchow and Ningpo..	17.00 to 19.00 "
Madras	12.50 to 15.50 "
Sales: 2,500 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca	

RICE.

HONGKONG, 15th July.—Arrivals having been small there has been a recovery in prices. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.25 to 2.29
" Round, good quality	2.54 to 2.58
" Long	2.66 to 2.70
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	2.31 to 2.34
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	2.77 to 2.80
" White	3.12 to 3.15
" Fine Cargo	3.32 to 3.35

COALS.

HONGKONG, 15th July.—A small business has been done in Japanese, and a sale of 2,000 tons Cardiff is reported. Quotations are:—
Cardiff \$13.25 to — ex godown, nom.
Australian 6.50 to 6.75 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Lump... 5.60 to 5.75 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small... 4.65 to — ex ship, do
Moji Lump ... 4.28 to 5.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 15th July.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—25 bales No. 6 at \$67, 25 bales No. 8 at \$69, 1,315 bales No. 10 at \$71 to \$79, 425 bales No. 12 at \$66.50 to \$80, 210 bales No. 16 at \$80 to \$91, 1,400 bales No. 20 at \$88 to \$95. Grey Shirtings.—250 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$3.75, 300 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Seal at \$2.80. White Shirtings.—500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.55, 250 pieces No. 3,000 at \$4.80, 500 pieces D. 70 at \$3.40, 250 pieces Green Large Stag at \$3.25. T-Cloths.—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Shoemaker at \$2.02, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.30, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Hunter and Stag, C. C. at \$3. Drills.—150 pieces 15 lbs. Flying Eagle at \$4.70. Turkey Reds.—100 pieces 5 lbs. Fluteman at \$3.20, 150 pieces 6 lbs. Fluteman at \$3.55. Camlets.—100 pieces 9 Old Men, assorted at \$17.75, 500 pieces Assorted Fisherman at \$17.90. METALS:—Iron.—16,000 bundles Nail Rods Belgian No. 1/6 at \$3.15 to \$3.20, 1,800 piculs Square, Round, and Flat Bars, at \$3.25, 400 kegs Wire Nails, 133 1/2 lbs. per keg, at \$5.20. Tin.—100 slabs Foongchai at \$33.05 to \$33.20. Quick-silver.—550 flasks at \$97 to \$99.75.

SHANGHAI, 9th July.—(From Messrs. Nosl, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report).—The market has been very quiet during the interval, dealers showing little or no inclination to buy, in fact in some quarters they say the market will continue in its present condition for another three or four weeks. The chief cause of this dullness is the withdrawal from the market of the Tientsin and Newchwang dealers, who declare that they have bought enough for the present and prefer to await the course of events before operating further. There are still a few unexecuted orders in the market for the better class of 4 lbs. and 10 lbs. Grey Shirtings.

but as buyers will not decide upon paying importer's prices, the latter are not forcing business, but are merely content to bide their time. There is no news of interest from the other Outports, to which, however, clearances continue to be made on a free scale. At the Auctions during the week prices incline to be easier, and it seems strange they should be so for Woollens as there has been a good business done privately in the available spot cargo at advancing rates.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report).—10th July.—Business continues in much the same dull and depressed condition reported frequently of late. Metals generally show a considerably increased importation than during the same six months of last year. Lead, however, stands about the same, but in all classes of Old and New Iron and Steel the increase with but few exceptions is very marked. A glance down the list of January-June Imports and Re-exports is very reassuring as to the trade of the port in Sundries and Metals. Japanese imports continue to increase, as can be seen by noting the figures for Copper, Matches and Buttons from Japan. There has been a considerable decrease in the Import of Pig Iron which, however, is more than counterbalanced by the increase in Nailrod.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 15th July.—We have a very quiet week to report, but although business has been abnormally slack, and transactions very few and far between, rates generally have not declined and it is only in very few cases that we have to report slight falls and weaknesses.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have continued without business, rates ruling at from 183 to 185 per cent. prem. nominal. At time of writing a few shares could be placed at 184, but it is doubtful whether they are obtainable. The absence of business in this stock has for some time made it difficult to give a true quotation and the very occasional demands to buy, or offers to sell, seldom establish a rate which can be relied on for any reasonable time. Bank of Chinas and Nationals continue out of favour with sellers of the latter at \$29.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders' are wanted in small, but are offering in ordinary lots at \$78½. All other Marines are on offer at quotations with small sales at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas are weaker with sellers at quotations and no business to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao still remain on offer at \$34 and sales are reported at \$33½, and this notwithstanding a dividend of (it is rumoured) \$1.20 per share, payable on the 1st August. Sales of Indo-Chinas are reported at \$55½. Douglases have been on offer at \$64½ without leading to business. China Manilas have ruled easier at \$74 with no buyers. China Mutuals quite neglected.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been in a small demand for cash, and small sales have been effected at \$111½ and \$112; at time of writing shares are obtainable from the North at \$112 for end of the month. Luzons have shown signs of weakness and although sales were effected in the early part of the week at \$68 the rate must be looked on as an outside one.

MINING.—Punjoms continue unusually quiet with small sales at \$14. Jebebus have changed hands at \$3 and Raubs at \$5.35. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have advanced further to 187 per cent. prem. with sales, and close steady at that rate. Kowloon Wharves have been in steady demand at \$51½ and \$52, with but few sales, and close steady to strong at the latter rate. Wanchais are reported to have changed hands at \$46.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have changed hands at \$73 in small lots and close steady at that rate. The Company has declared an interim dividend of \$2 per share payable on the 27th inst., and we understand that the accounts to 30th June show an improvement on those of last year. Hotels remain quiet at \$22, and West Points steady at \$18, with no sales.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have improved to \$17½ with small sales. Watsons have changed hands at \$12½, and are obtainable at the rate. Electric have been negotiated at \$7.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$355, buyers]
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	184 p. ct. prem. =
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$29, sellers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$110, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	15s.	\$7, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	\$6, sales
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$5
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$3
China Sugar	\$100	\$112, sales & sellers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	75 cents, buyers
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$5
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$27, sales & sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$17½, sales
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$7, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$96
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$22, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$103
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$52, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$126, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	187 p. ct. prem. =
Insurance—		[\$358.75, sales]
Canton	\$50	\$200, sellers
China Fire	\$50	\$96, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$78½, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 200
Straits	\$20	\$27½, sales & sellers
Union	\$25	\$237½, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$152½
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$73, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$18, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$68, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$80, sales
Jebebu	\$5	\$3, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$2.50
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$3, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$4, sellers
Punjom	\$4	\$14, sales & buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3.70
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$5.35
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$74, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£3, sellers
Do. Preference...	£10	£8.10, sales & sellers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$64½, sellers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$33½, sales & buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$55½, sales
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$46, sales
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12.50, sal. & sellers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 10th July.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report).—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—A sale at 186 per cent. premium is the only business reported. There is no change to report in the other Bank stocks. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have changed hands at Tls. 42 ex dividend, and shares are obtainable at the same prices. A sale of Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares, to Hongkong, at \$33½ is reported. Docks.—Shares in Boyd & Co. have been sold at Tls. 210. The annual general meeting of shareholders is called for the 28th current. S. C. Farnham & Co. shares have changed hands at Tls. 210. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks shares have changed hands, in Hongkong, at 187 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—North-China Insurance shares changed hands at Tls. 195. Yangtze Insurance shares have been placed at \$152½ cash, \$159 for 30th September, and \$165 for 31st December. The market closes weak with cash sellers at \$152½. A large number of Straits shares have been sold at \$27 to Hongkong, and locally at \$27 for cash, \$27 for the 31st current, and \$28 for September and October delivery. Fire Insurance.—Business has been confined to Chinas at \$95. Wharfs.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have been placed at Tls. 117½ cum dividend. Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were sold at Tls. 202½. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold for delivery on the 31st current at Tls. 4½, and are offering. China Sugar Refining shares were placed, to Hongkong, at \$110 and \$111, and locally for 31st July at \$110 and \$112, and for November delivery at \$116. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares have been placed at Tls. 80 cum dividend on Tls. 30. An interim dividend of 4 per cent. for the half year has been declared. Industrial.—Ewo Cotton

shares were sold at Tls. 87½. Leou-kung-mow shares and Soy Chee shares are both offering at par. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 90, Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 600 cash, Tls. 640 for September, and Tls. 650 for October. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 68 for delivery on 31st August, J. Llewellyn & Co. shares at \$60, Hall & Holtz shares at \$33 cash and \$34 for delivery on the 30th September, and shares in A. S. Watson & Co. at \$12. Debentures.—Shanghai Waterworks 6 per cent Debentures were placed at Tls. 122½, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debentures at Tls. 110, plus the accrued interest in both cases. The Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5 per cent. Debenture Loan of 1895 has been all allotted, and Debentures are now wanted at par.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS

WEDNESDAY, 15th July.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.77
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.81½
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	2.24
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	53½
Credits, 60 days' sight	54½
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	187
Bank, on demand	187½
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	187
Bank, on demand	187½
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	1 % pm.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	16 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	8.90
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	47.00

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 15th July.—The volume of business transacted during the past fortnight has been very small and there has been very little enquiry for tonnage in any direction. From Saigon to this there is no change since last report and there is still no demand for tonnage. From Bangkok to this the same remarks apply and from Java to Hongkong also tonnage is not wanted. From Newchwang to Canton nothing has been done and charterers do not appear to care about taking up steamers at present. In Japan coal freights there is no favourable change to report; and rates are nominally \$1.25 to Hongkong, and \$1.75 to Singapore. For sailing tonnage there are no fixtures reported here. For New York requirements seem to be satisfied for the present and for San Francisco charterers are still unable to get tonnage at their figures.

There are eight vessels disengaged in port, registering 7,969 tons.

The following are the settlements:—
L. Schepp—American ship, 1,776 tons, Kobe and Hongkong to New York, private terms.

Conqueror—American ship, 1,540 tons, Japan to New York, private terms.

Mascotte—British steamer, 2,018 tons, Kuchinotau to Singapore, \$1.75 per ton.

Hinsang—British steamer, 1,526 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.25 per ton.

Tancred—Norwegian steamer, 786 tons, Moji to Canton, \$1.80 per ton.

Tancred—Norwegian steamer, 786 tons, Hongay to Swatow, \$1.15 per ton.

Tancred—Norwegian steamer, 786 tons, Hongay to Singapore, private terms.

Talies—German steamer, 939 tons, Hongay to Canton, three trips, \$1.25 per ton.

Fulkenburg—German steamer, 1,175 tons, Kobe to Amoy, \$1.50 per ton.

Wuolan—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Newchwang to Swatow, 17 cents per picul.

Petrich—British steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 5 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 5 cents per picul.
Decima—German steamer, 1,145 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 6 cents per picul.
J. Christensen—Norwegian steamer, 1,338 tons, Saigon to Iloilo, part cargo, \$2,000.
Clara—German steamer, 284 tons, Saigon to Iloilo and thence to Hongkong, \$5,000.
St. Louis—British steamer, 816 tons, hence to Saigon, \$400.
Karpeno—Norwegian steamer, 1,395 tons, monthly, 3/8 months, \$500 per month.
Helen Brewer—American ship, 1,597 tons, Nagasaki and Hongkong to Baltimore, \$2,500.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Benlomond* (str.), *Palawan* (str.), *Monmouthshire* (str.), *Pakling* (str.), *Sunda* (str.), *Polyphemus* (str.).
 For MARSEILLES.—*Maria Rickmers* (str.), *Balmoral* (str.), *Melbourne* (str.).
 For BREMEN.—*Preussen* (s.r.).
 For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).
 For VICTORIA.—*Victoria* (str.), *Altmore* (str.).
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Coptic* (str.), *City of Rio de Janeiro* (str.), *Socotra* (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—*Com. T. H. Allen*, *Lucille*, *Manuel Laguno*, *Charles E. Moody*, *Glenogle* (str.).
 For BALTIMORE.—*Isaac Reed*.
 For AUSTRALIA.—*Changsha* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

July—

ARRIVALS.

7. *Clara*, German str., from Amoy.
 8. *Hongkong*, French str., from Haiphong.
 8. *Peru*, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 8. *Foochow*, British str., from Shanghai.
 8. *Sishan*, British str., from Saigon.
 8. *Nijni Novgorod*, Rus. str., from Hankow.
 8. *Benlawers*, British str., from Foochow.
 8. *Formosa*, British str., from Coast Ports.
 9. *Bygdo*, Norw. str., from Canton.
 9. *Diomed*, British str., from Liverpool.
 9. *Chiyuen*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 9. *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., from Canton.
 9. *Bellona*, German str., from Hamburg.
 9. *Borneo*, British str., from London.
 9. *Hailoong*, British str., from Tamsui.
 9. *Taisang*, British str., from Canton.
 9. *Amarapoor*, British str., from Moji.
 9. *Sungkiang*, British str., from Manila.
 9. *Invertay*, British str., from Hongay.
 9. *Shelley*, British str., from Singapore.
 10. *Ravenna*, British str., from Bombay.
 10. *Ellen Rickmers*, British str., from Hamburg.
 10. *Conch*, British str., from Singapore.
 10. *Glenlochy*, British str., from New York.
 10. *Chingtu*, British str., from Sydney.
 10. *Amara*, British str., from Moji.
 10. *Gloucester City*, British str., from B'kok.
 11. *Petrarch*, German str., from Canton.
 11. *Foochow*, British str., from Canton.
 11. *Australian*, British str., from Kobe.
 11. *Chefoo*, British str., from Newchwang.
 11. *Argyll*, British str., from Hongay.
 11. *Pakling*, British str., from Yokohama.
 11. *Triumph*, German str., from Pakhoi.
 12. *Chiyuen*, Chinese str., from Canton.
 12. *Fuping*, Chinese str., from Canton.
 12. *Fushun*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 12. *Hanoi*, French str., from Hanoi.
 12. *Loksang*, British str., from Shanghai.
 12. *Lysemoon*, German str., from Shanghai.
 12. *Mazagon*, British str., from Moji.
 12. *Ningchow*, British str., from Liverpool.
 12. *Rio*, German str., from Singapore.
 12. *Thekla*, German str., from Foochow.
 12. *Wosang*, British str., from Canton.
 12. *M. Bacquehem*, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 13. *Altmore*, British str., from Yokohama.
 13. *Ask*, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
 13. *Verona*, British str., from Yokohama.
 13. *Empress of Japan*, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 14. *Daphne*, German str., from Woosung.
 14. *Kwongsang*, British str., from Chefoo.
 14. *Martha*, German str., from Moji.
 14. *Peshawur*, British str., from Shanghai.
 14. *Suisang*, British str., from Singapore.
 14. *Invertay*, British str., from Canton.
 14. *Chowtai*, British str., from Bangkok.
 14. *Tailee*, German str., from Newchwang.
 14. *Cheang Hye Teng*, Brit. str., from S'pore.
 15. *Chefoo*, British str., from Canton.
 15. *Loksang*, British str., from Canton.

15. *Haitan*, British str., from Coast Ports.
 15. *Lysemoon*, German str., from Canton.
 15. *Redpole*, British gunboat, from Amoy.
 15. *Achilles*, British str., from Shanghai.
 15. *Macduff*, British str., from Moji.
 15. *Ingraban*, German str., from Hoihow.

July—

DEPARTURES.

8. *Devawongse*, British str., for Bangkok.
 8. *Oceanien*, French str., for Europe.
 8. *Foochow*, British str., for Canton.
 8. *Hong Leong*, British str., for Amoy.
 8. *Memnon*, British str., for Kudat.
 8. *Taicheong*, German str., for Amoy.
 8. *Wosang*, British str., for Canton.
 9. *Albingia*, German steamer, for Kobe.
 9. *Lennox*, British str., for Shanghai.
 9. *Merionethshire*, British str., for N'saki.
 9. *Aden*, British str., for London.
 9. *Benlawers*, British str., for London.
 9. *Hankow*, British str., for London.
 9. *Nijni Novgorod*, Russ. str., for Singapore.
 9. *Strathlyon*, British str., for Shanghai.
 10. *Chiyuen*, Chinese str., for Canton.
 10. *Bygdo*, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 10. *St. Louis*, French str., for Saigon.
 10. *Montanes*, Spanish str., for Manila.
 10. *Diomed*, British str., for Shanghai.
 10. *Formosa*, British str., for Swatow.
 10. *Kachidate Maru*, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 10. *Kagoshima Maru*, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 10. *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 10. *Taisang*, British str., for Swatow.
 11. *Clara*, German str., for Saigon.
 11. *Conch*, British str., for Yokohama.
 11. *Ravenna*, British str., for Shanghai.
 11. *Holstein*, German str., for Saigon.
 11. *Progress*, German str., for Touron.
 11. *Borneo*, British str., for Shanghai.
 11. *Chingtu*, British str., for Shanghai.
 11. *Hongkong*, French str., for Haiphong.
 11. *Kong Alf*, Norw. str., for Manila.
 11. *Ocampo*, British str., for Kobe.
 11. *Sikh*, British str., for Foochow.
 12. *Chefoo*, British str., for Canton.
 12. *Esmeralda*, British str., for Manila.
 12. *Glenlochy*, British str., for Shanghai.
 12. *Hailoong*, British str., for Swatow.
 12. *Kiangnan*, British str., for Chinohi.
 12. *Mazagon*, British str., for London.
 12. *Victoria*, British str., for Tacoma.
 12. *Wootan*, German str., for Swatow.
 13. *Loksang*, British str., for Canton.
 13. *Fushun*, Chinese str., for Canton.
 13. *Lysemoon*, German str., for Canton.
 13. *Ellen Rickmers*, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 13. *Peru*, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 13. *Sishan*, British str., for Swatow.
 14. *Australian*, British str., for Sydney.
 14. *Falkenburg*, German str., for Kebao.
 14. *Triumph*, German str., for Hoihow.
 14. *Creedmoor*, British ship, for Nagasaki.
 14. *Bellona*, German str., for Yokohama.
 14. *Chiyuen*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 14. *Foochow*, British str., for Singapore.
 14. *Fuping*, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
 14. *Hanoi*, French str., for Hoihow.
 14. *Kwongsang*, British str., for Canton.
 14. *M. Bacquehem*, Aust. str., for Shanghai.
 14. *Martha*, German str., for Canton.
 14. *Namoa*, British str., for Coast Ports.
 14. *Ningchow*, British str., for Amoy.
 14. *Sungkiang*, British str., for Manila.
 15. *Daphne*, German str., for Canton.
 15. *Tailee*, German str., for Canton.
 15. *Congo*, Spanish sch., for Manila.
 15. *Conqueror*, Amr. ship, for Kobe.
 15. *Wosang*, British str., for Swatow.
 15. *Deuteros*, German str., for Saigon.
 15. *Mascotte*, British str., for Kobe.
 15. *Thekla*, German str., for Hamburg.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Aden*, str., for Hongkong from Yokohama.—Mr. Rawson Walker. From Shanghai.—Messrs. J. W. Davies and Gedge. For London.—Mr. C. I. Holland.
 Per *Esmeralda*, str., for Manila.—Mrs. Clara Kohn, Messrs. G. Rodriguez, L. Gualvate, Higginso Gomez, F. Butler, and F. Whittel.
 Per *Peru*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Austin Thomson, and family, and Miss Steela Ballei.
 Per *Hailoong*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Mr. J. Thomson and Mr. Ling.

Per *Borneo*, str., from London for Hongkong.—Surg. Capt. J. J. C. Watson. From Plymouth.—Sub. Lieut. J. B. Compton. From London for Shanghai.—Mr. Withington.
 Per *Chingtu*, str., from Australia.—Hon. Audley Coote, Col. Preston, Messrs. Forbush and Irving.

Per *Ravenna*, str., for Hongkong, from London.—Mr. M. Watson and Lieut. F. J. O. Plumer. From Gibraltar.—Capt. T. Ferreira. From Bombay.—Mr. Tyebally Essabhooy. From Singapore.—Mr. C. H. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Choo Yeok Chee. For Shanghai from London.—Mr. Gower Pelkington, Mr. W. H. Brennan. For Yokohama from London.—Mr. A. Bergen and Mrs. Bergen. From Singapore.—Mr. W. J. Blackhall. For Kobe from London.—Mrs. Ballard and Miss Ballard.

Per *Australian*, str., from Kobe.—Mrs. Melby and two children.

Per *Loksang*, str., from Shanghai.—Mr. Roberts.

Per *Lysemoon*, str., from Shanghai.—Mrs. Scott and child, Messrs. Ellert, K. Hirano, Goodfellow, and Solterbeck.

Per *Verona*, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong.—Messrs. W. Hardwick and W. Harrison. For Colombo.—Surg. Maj. McKie. From Kobe for Hongkong.—Mr. Cheong Loong. For Brindisi.—Mr. G. W. Stitt. From Nagasaki for London.—Mr. G. White.

Per *Empress of Japan*, str., from Vancouver, &c.—Miss Ludlow, Mr. W. H. Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Scurch and 2 children, Miss Cuthbert, Master K. Robinson, Lieut. Campbell, Rev. and Mrs. Morris, Lieut. Close, Mr. A. H. Skelton, Major and Mrs. Wrottesley, Mr. and Mrs. G. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Rosendale, Capt. B. Carr, Lieut. Paley, Mr. N. J. Ede, Lieut. Paul, Misses Jackson (2), Miss Boyes, Capt. Bethune, Mr. and Mrs. Descours.

Per *Peshawur*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong.—Mrs. Chang and sister, Mr. Chang and brother, Messrs. Jor Ya Sam and Hoolin Bux.

Per *Suisang*, str., from Singapore.—Mrs. Landsberg, Miss Schaff, Messrs. Wright, M. Irving, Meyer, Eastwood, Mrs. Ling Sing and child.

DEPARTED.

Per *Salasie*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong.—Messrs. F. P. da Silva, Air, and Grunbaum. From Marseilles.—Messrs. Renéd'anjou, Durand, Lindberg, Bohnstedt, Brumé, Tabbah, Mr. and Mrs. Heritte and two children. For Japan from Marseilles.—Messrs. Lassneur, Mikas, Capt. Anderson, Messrs. Bennevit, Allias and child, and Miss Bernheim.

Per *Memnon*, str., for Sandakan.—Mr. Roberts.

Per *Oceanien*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon.—Mr. John Barrett. For Singapore.—Col. and Mrs. Fetherstonhaugh. For Batavia.—Mr. van Lutius. For Marseilles.—Messrs. E. T. C. Werner, W. C. Crow, J. Jorgensen, and Ch. Brekke.

Per *Aden*, str., for Singapore.—Messrs. A. J. Reid and Chan Kam (Mail Officers), Messrs. Leong Lok Hing and Lai Yuen. For London.—Mrs. Hoile and 2 children, Mr. H. W. Bird. From Shanghai for London.—Mr. C. J. Holland.

Per *Ravenna*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong.—Miss Sinnott, Mr. J. Gresson. From London.—Messrs. Gower Pilkington and W. H. Brennan.

Per *Borneo*, str., from London for Shanghai.—Mr. Withington. For Kobe.—Mrs. and Miss Ballard. For Yokohama.—Mr. and Mrs. A. Bergen.

Per *Hongkong*, str., for Haiphong.—Messrs. Simon Piry and F. Quillot.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., for Manila.—Messrs. E. Norman Barff and W. Rawson Walker.

Per *Peru*, str., for Amoy.—Mr. J. S. Van Buren. For Nagasaki.—Lieut. F. J. Talbot. For Yokohama.—Major and Mrs. Hanham, Mrs. G. K. Moore, Mr. C. A. Forbush. For Honolulu.—Mr. Ah Sue. For San Francisco.—Col. Preston, Miss H. Kirke.

Per *Australian*, str., for Timor.—Ensign A. C. Ferreira. For Sydney.—Rev. F. Allen, Mrs. Fletcher and child, Capt. Dawson.

Per *Namoa*, str., for Foochow.—Messrs. Shaw (two).